



University College Dublin  
An Coláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath  
Ireland's Global University

# UCD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

September 2020  
- August 2021



# FOREWORD

**“It gives me great pleasure to introduce the 2020-2021 UCD Community Engagement Report. As always the main purpose of this report is to raise awareness of the significant contributions UCD employees, students and alumni make in the wider community.”**

On behalf of the university, I want to thank all of those who submitted to the report. The activities in this report bring to life the values of UCD and demonstrate the open, creative and collaborative spirit in which we engage with the wider community for mutual benefit. I am also keenly aware that there are many others involved in such activities but who have not made their presence known – I would encourage everyone who is involved in community engagement to get in touch so that we can shine a light on their work and inspire others to follow their example.

There are so many excellent contributions that I do not want to single out any one contribution in particular. However, I would like to draw your attention to a poignant new section of the report, remembering the contributions of two colleagues who have passed away – Dr John Stowe (UCD School of Medicine) and Dr Mary Gallagher (UCD School of Veterinary Medicine).

Finally, if you have any ideas for community engagement projects that you would like to see UCD participate in, please feel free to contact us at [ucdic@ucd.ie](mailto:ucdic@ucd.ie)”

**Professor Joe Carthy,  
UCD in the Community**





# INTRODUCTION

## Community Engagement in UCD

### Community-university partnerships make a difference.

They enrich our teaching and the student experience, as well as offering innovative ways of engaging communities with research. These collaborative partnerships provide real and meaningful benefits for all those involved.

This report is comprised of submissions received from across the UCD community and was compiled by UCD in the Community, UCD's community engagement initiative. It showcases just a snapshot of the community engagement activities that have taken place between September 2020 and August 2021.

Campus Engage, based within the Irish Universities Association (IUA), define community engagement as:

*"A mutually beneficial knowledge-based collaboration between the higher education institution with the wider community, through community-campus partnerships including the activities of community-based learning, community engaged research, volunteering, community/economic regeneration, capacity-building and access/widening participation".*

UCD strives to play an active and positive role within our communities, but often the people and success stories around community engagement activities across the university are unseen and unrecorded. UCD in the Community recognises the need to shine a light on these activities while, at the same time, supporting the establishment of new and diverse community initiatives. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the hands-on approach of the UCD community in addressing real world problems, through community engaged research and innovation, community based teaching, and volunteering. During the pandemic, UCD employees, students and alumni have assisted with: COVID-19 testing and contact tracing, COVID-19 research and innovation, provision of facilities and training, supplying informed communication to the public, volunteering, fundraising and assisting local communities.



**RISING  
TO THE  
FUTURE**  
UCD Strategy 2020-2024



### Delivering on Strategy and Building Reputation

Community engagement directly contributes to the **UCD Strategic Plan 2020-2024: Rising to the Future**, in particular with Core Objective Three - 'Continue to build our engagement locally, nationally and internationally' and Strategic Theme Four - 'Empowering Humanity.' UCD in the Community is identified in the Strategic Plan as a means of "empowering the UCD community as socially aware, global citizens". At a national level, engagement with wider society is named as a core role of higher education in the 'National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030' (Department of Education and Skills, 2011), and 'Towards a Performance evaluation framework: Profiling Irish higher education' (Higher Education Authority, 2013). This emphasis on engagement, highlights the increasing importance of higher education institutions engaging with, and responding to, the needs of the community.

A key part of the UCD in the Community team's remit is to build and enhance UCD relationships with community-based organisations and work with them to identify needs that UCD is uniquely capable of addressing. There is mutual value in strengthening relationships with the community, enabling UCD employees and students to learn while they serve and simultaneously supporting and addressing local needs. At the same time boosting the institution's reputation and cohesion in local, national and international communities. The stories in this report clearly demonstrate that community engagement is alive and well in UCD and ready to be further supported and built on across the lifetime of the UCD Strategy and beyond.

Engagement with the community is also key to achieving the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, with universities being identified as playing a critical role in guiding the SDG response and building global capacity to implement the goals. UCD's community engagement activities deliver on our national commitment to supporting this global framework and clearly demonstrates that UCD is committed to playing a key role in achieving the SDGs. We have a responsibility through our teaching and research to equip the next generation of leaders, innovators and creatives to understand the global challenges facing the world and the role they play in addressing them. Throughout this report you will find tangible and real examples of how the university is delivering on this and the benefits that are gained by those involved.

**UCD in the Community hope that this report gives you a taste of some of the excellent community activities that are currently taking place, while inspiring new ideas for engaging with the wider community.**

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# Coastal Communities Adapting Together (CCAT)

Landscape Architecture, part of the UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy

The CCAT project aimed to support coastal communities in Ireland and Wales to understand climate change and how to adapt. It was part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund through the Ireland Wales Programme and ran from 2019 to 2021.



UCD led the [CCAT project](#) with partner Fingal County Council and UCC/MaREI in Ireland and Cardiff University, Pembrokeshire Coastal Forum, and the Port of Milford Haven in Wales. CCAT aimed at increasing knowledge of climate change and how to adapt among communities in the Irish Sea region. Coastal communities are particularly at risk of climate impacts such as coastal erosion and sea-level rise. CCAT's research provided novel insights on building adaptive capacity to change using tools for learning, observing, sense-making and co-creating local responses to climate impacts.

CCAT worked with citizens of all ages in Fingal and Pembrokeshire and explored a variety of community engagement tools such as Minecraft, geodesign, online participatory mapping, augmented reality, virtual reality, animations and educational resources.

In Fingal, CCAT ran geodesign workshops that engaged the community in deliberation and negotiation about local future planning and the transition to a low-carbon, resilient county. The participants made design decisions based on various interlinked systems such as road, water, biodiversity, active transport and negotiated among themselves to agree a final plan. CCAT also held geogames workshops using Minecraft with children and their parents in the Fingal area. The online workshops gave children the opportunity to develop environmental design solutions. The outputs from the geodesign and Minecraft workshops contributed to the council's consultation process for the county development plan.

CCAT developed climate changes, impact and actions workshops using interactive cards to help facilitate community conversations about tackling climate change. These workshops produced community outputs in the form of reports for local councils to encourage the development of local adaptation plans. The workshops were also adapted for use in secondary schools.



*"I took part in the CCAT climate change card workshop. Feedback was very useful, positive and empowering. It highlights local impacts and action, and was best online session ever."*

Tom Moses, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Ranger

In Pembrokeshire, several participatory mapping projects were developed. The Coastal Communities Growing Together project planted 2,000 trees with the support of schools and community groups along the Milford Haven Waterway. It provided outdoor educational activities on the care and maintenance of trees for future generations. The

Reviving Carriage Drive project supported the local community to suggest improvements to a historic area of Pembroke Dock. Other tools such as animation, augmented and virtual reality were used with the local communities to great effect. The CCAT project was also a runner-up in the UCD Research Impact Case Study Competition.

Submitted by Pauline Power





# Culture & Engagement

## Employee engagement & volunteering



Culture & Engagement



**In support of our strategic objective to be an employer of choice, engagement activities continued online due to the pandemic, across the themes of physical, mental and financial wellbeing. Over the academic year some 3,000 employee registrations were recorded for activities ranging from mental health and wellbeing webinars to individual and team step challenges with a charity fundraising element raising €11,000.**

Across the academic year 29 events or initiatives were organised for employees. A series of webinars were held to share with colleagues information to improve their physical, mental and financial wellbeing. These included webinars on healthy eating in conjunction with Healthy UCD, improving personal finances through better planning to reduce costs on health insurance and mortgages. A series with UCD's Employee Assistance Service provider Spectrum.Life on mental health balance. In addition, two challenges raised funds for UCD's charities of choice.

The UCD Challenge involved over 500 employees signing up to beat their target distance of 90, 110 or 140km by walking and running. Through their efforts Culture & Engagement donated €4,230 to Special Olympics Ireland with a further €3,549 raised by the participants.

*Engagement activities continued online due to the pandemic.*

*The UCD Challenge involved over 500 employees signing up to beat their target distance of 90, 110 or 140km by walking and running.*

In another team based challenge "Better Together" 55 teams completed the challenge of beating their team target to raise €3,300 for UCDVO's Uganda Healthcare Appeal.



*Over the academic year some 3,000 employee registrations were recorded for activities ranging from mental health and wellbeing webinars to individual and team step challenges with a charity fundraising element raising €11,000.*





# UCD Values in Action Awards 2020

Now in their third year, the awards initiated by the Employee Engagement Network, and run by Culture & Engagement, the UCD VIA (Values in Action) Awards recognise colleagues who bring the University's values to life. For 2020, 73 nominations were received and 12 awards presented. Among the awards 3 teams were recognised for their efforts relating to combatting the pandemic.

*The UCD VIA  
(Values in Action)  
Awards recognise  
colleagues who bring  
the University's  
values to life.*

## Conway COVID-19 Urgent Response Team

The core Conway staff and volunteer Early Career Researchers (ECRs) that made up the UCD Conway COVID-19 Urgent Response Team were recognised for their contribution to the national effort to combat COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic.

Following their work with the National Virus Reference Laboratory (NVRL) to sequence the genome of the SARS-CoV2 virus, it quickly became evident that equipment, reagents and expertise would be vital in the national response to this crisis. During the weekend of 14-16 March, UCD Conway staff collated inventories of relevant equipment and reagents to facilitate COVID-19 testing. They also created a survey form to collate details of individuals with relevant DNA and RNA extraction and PCR experience, issued an invitation for volunteers and by the 17th March, had established a database of more than 180 volunteers with relevant expertise for COVID-19 testing available for deployment to local clinical sites.

*Recognised for their contribution to the national effort to combat COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic.*

The ECR volunteers were deployed to the Enfer Group Laboratory in Naas, Co Kildare and to St Vincent's University Hospital (SVUH) where they staffed a third clinical laboratory, greatly increasing testing capacity. This team demonstrated immense collegiality in supporting clinical staff in local hospitals and labs. They engaged proactively with people within and outside of the university and they found creative ways to go beyond traditional academic-clinical boundaries, all in the national interest.

## Staff of the National Virus Reference Laboratory (NVRL)

The team of the National Virus Reference Laboratory (NVRL) were recognised for their outstanding commitment in responding to an unprecedented global health emergency and in rising to the challenge of delivering a SARS CoV2 (COVID-19) testing service for Ireland.

The SARS CoV2 testing service expanded from 20 tests to over 4000 tests per week. In addition, the NVRL supported other laboratories in developing their capacity to provide testing for COVID-19 and made valuable contributions to epidemiological research. Members of this team have contributed their expertise to national committees, advisory

groups, government agencies and spent many hours supporting colleagues in medicine and public health during this pandemic. They have also played a role in communicating vital health messages not only in national and local media but on a day-to-day basis with the many members of the public who contacted the laboratory.

The major contribution of the NVRL to the ongoing public health emergency has had, and continues to have national impact at both society and individual level. The work of the whole team exemplifies UCD's values of excellence, collegiality, integrity and engagement.

*The team of the National Virus Reference Laboratory (NVRL) were recognised for their outstanding commitment in responding to an unprecedented global health emergency*

## UCD Contact Tracing Team

The UCD Contact Tracing Team, led by Assoc. Prof. Mary Codd and Prof. Patrick Wall, were recognised for their extraordinary dedication in developing a vital contact tracing programme for the management of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The aim of the UCD Contact Tracing Team was to be functional and ready to support HSE efforts to reach out to COVID-19 infected people in the shortest time possible. The team managed to consolidate a task force within a week with many staff and students trained to operate as contact tracers. The team developed different guides,

provided support and coaching to all the volunteers involved, and designed additional material to improve the sessions and the experience for volunteers. In total, over 100 UCD community members have been trained.

Mary and Pat led a wonderful team of dedicated people during the peak of the pandemic and continued their outstanding work and involvement during the off-peak weeks as well. The UCD centre was quickly recognised for its leadership in this evolving process and both Mary and Pat were frequently on national media as recognised experts in contact tracing and public health. The efforts of those who established the UCD Contacting Tracing Centre and the team of volunteers have had a national impact at a time of crisis.

The voluntary effort of all involved, while in many cases maintaining their UCD workload, demonstrates exceptional commitment and truly reflects the UCD values in action.

Submitted by Mark Simpson

**3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



The full list of recipients is available on:  
<https://www.ucd.ie/engage/engagement/events/ucdawardspage/2020viaawards/>



# Gaeltacht UCD, UCD Global Centre for Irish Language and Culture

## Cultúr na Céadaoine', Gaeltacht UCD Cultural Workshops Online

Gaeltacht UCD invited members of the public to partake in 'Cultúr na Céadaoine', its online cultural workshop series, October 2020 to April 2021.

In October 2020 UCD invited members of the University's local, national and international community to participate in Cultúr na Céadaoine, a series of cultural workshops online. Each workshop related to an aspect of the Irish language and culture and comprised a presentation followed by a discussion in English, Irish or bilingually. The lunchtime workshops were of 30 minutes duration and were designed to spark interest in further learning. Presenters included, external artists, media personalities, authors and musicians as well as UCD students, faculty and staff.

Language, literature, music, dance, food, folklore, festivals, flora and fauna were among the subjects discussed. Relevant resources were distributed to participants after each presentation. Thirteen events were held from October to April, attracting a total of 798 registrations via UCD's booking system. The series resulted in a truly enjoyable exchange of knowledge and practice between participants within and without the University.

Submitted by Clár Ní Bhuachalla



**Gaeltacht UCD**  
 UCD Global Centre for Irish Language & Culture

## Cultúr na Céadaoine

Wednesday's Cultural Workshops

| 2021                          | Live via Zoom   | 13.00 - 13.30 |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------|
| <b>27 Eanáir</b><br>January   | <b>Foclóir Nua Béarla-Gaeilge 2020</b><br>Cormac Breathnach, Bainisteoir Tionscadail, Foras na Gaeilge<br><i>The New English Irish Dictionary</i><br>Cormac Breathnach, Project Manager for the new English-Irish Dictionary, Foras na Gaeilge      |               |
| <b>3 Feabhra</b><br>February  | <b>Lá Fhéile Bhríde</b><br>Jonny Dillon, Cartlannai Cúnta, Cnuasach Bhéalóideas Éireann, Leabharlann UCD<br><i>St. Brigid's Feast Day, Customs &amp; Traditions</i><br>Jonny Dillon, Assistant Archivist, National Folklore Collection, UCD Library |               |
| <b>10 Feabhra</b><br>February | <b>Lá San Vailintín</b><br>An Dr. Kelly Fitzgerald, Scoil na Gaeilge, an Léinn Cheiltigh agus an Bhealoidis UCD<br><i>St. Valentine's Day, Customs &amp; Traditions</i><br>Dr Kelly Fitzgerald, UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies and Folklore    |               |
| <b>10 Márta</b><br>March      | <b>Meet Donncha Ó Murchú, TG4</b><br><i>Learn about the wealth of terminology &amp; proverbs in Irish related to the weather.</i>   |               |

Bíog Linn!

Register Online:  
[www.ucd.ie/bnag/en/services/culturalactivities](http://www.ucd.ie/bnag/en/services/culturalactivities)

*The lunchtime workshops were designed to spark interest in further learning.*

## Cultúr na Céadaoine

Wednesday's Cultural Workshops

27 February

Bláthanna Fiáine in Éirinn / Devil's Bites and Fairy Fingers:  
The weird and wonderful hidden in Irish Wildflower names  
Postgraduate Student Aedin Ní Thiarnaigh



3 March

Lá Domhanda na Leabhar - áiseanna d'og agus aosta /  
World Book Day - resources in Irish for young and old  
Author Bridget Breathnach, Cló Iar Chonnachta & Futa Fata



24 March

Bia na hÉireann: Mar a bhí agus mar a bheidh /  
Irish Food: 'Where did it come from and where is it going?'  
Cook and Social Entrepreneur Diarmuid Ó Mathúna



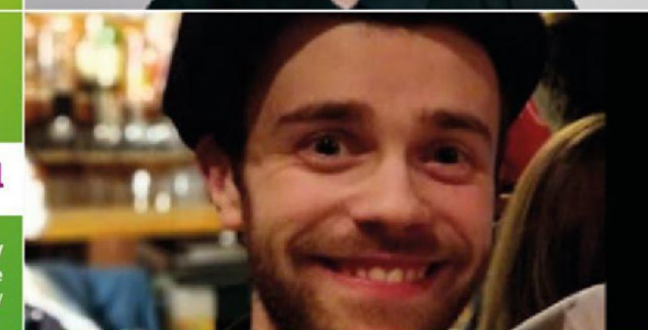
31 March

Léargas ar cuid de na podchraoltaí is spéisiúla sa Chaeilge /  
An insight into some interesting podcasts in Irish  
Journalist and Broadcaster Sinéad Ní Uallacháin



7 April

Rapcheol i nGaeilge /  
How to produce rap music videos in the Irish Language  
Songwriter and Educational Technologist Eoin McEvoy





# Healthy UCD

## Healthy Eating Week

**MSc Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics students worked with Healthy UCD to deliver Healthy Eating Week online. A range of engaging content was created covering topics such as healthy breakfasts and eating on a budget, along with a healthy baking competition.**



MSc Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics students working on Healthy Eating Week in November 2020 were faced with the unique challenge of delivering the event virtually as the UCD campus was closed except for essential activity. They used the Healthy UCD website and social media channels to deliver event content in creative formats from 23rd-26th November 2020 with support from Healthy UCD.

The students selected an individual theme for each day of the four-day event, namely 'All things breakfast', 'Eat well for less', 'Keep it movin' (based on nutrition and exercise) and 'Snack attack' (based around healthy snacking). Content produced under these themes included infographics, a budget-friendly shopping list and recipes accompanied by videos based on the list ingredients, a sports nutrition podcast series, and a Question and Answer session with a member of the Dublin ladies gaelic football team.

*MSc Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics students working on Healthy Eating Week in November 2020 were faced with the unique challenge of delivering the event virtually.*

One of the highlights of the week was a healthy baking competition, with prizes of kitchen equipment sponsored by Kenwood Ireland organised by the students. Over 60 entries were received ranging from tarts to pancakes to cakes. An additional 90 entries were received for other competitions held across the week, while Healthy Eating Week content was viewed by over 3,000 accounts on Instagram, over 2,000 accounts on Twitter, and the Healthy UCD website was visited over 1,000 times during Healthy Eating week.

*The students selected an individual theme for each day of the four-day event, namely 'All things breakfast', 'Eat well for less', 'Keep it movin' (based on nutrition and exercise) and 'Snack attack' (based around healthy snacking).*



All Healthy Eating Week content remains available to view on our website, <https://www.ucd.ie/healthyucd/discover/healthyeatingweek2020/> or on Instagram, @healthyucd.

Submitted by Maria Heffernan





# Wellbeing Your Way

Second year students in BSc Sport & Exercise Management worked with Healthy UCD to plan and deliver a wellbeing event in Spring 2021. Their event was titled “Wellbeing Your Way” and involved a variety of activities and competitions delivered online.

Healthy UCD worked with 2nd year BSc Sport & Exercise Management students to deliver a wellbeing event as part of their Event Management module. An online edition of the 2021 event was held which was rolled out using the Healthy UCD website and social media channels under the theme of “Wellbeing Your Way”. This included live online seminars on healthy eating and mental wellbeing, along with fitness classes in pilates, yoga and dance, and a competition which invited members of the UCD community to submit photos capturing what wellbeing means to them. The students organised sponsorship for competition prizes from a range of companies which included healthy goodie bags and Healthy UCD branded clothing.

Each seminar and fitness class received an average of 460 views across all platforms during the event. At the conclusion of the live events, a

*Students reported that they had gained an understanding of the responsibilities of running a professional event and how to work together in small groups as well as in a larger team.*



Kahoot quiz was held to test people’s wellbeing knowledge. This proved very popular, with over 100 participants. As a result of planning and delivering Wellbeing Your Way with Healthy UCD, students reported that they had gained an understanding of the responsibilities of running a professional event and how to work together in small groups as well as in a larger team.

Submitted by Maria Heffernan



| Wellbeing Your Way                   |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Activity Timetable                   |  |
| TUESDAY MARCH 30TH                   | WEDNESDAY MARCH 31ST                           |
| 12:00-12:30 MENTAL WELLBEING SEMINAR | 12:00-12:30 HEALTHY EATING SEMINAR + Q&A       |
| DANCE WORKOUT CLASS 16:00-16:30      | YOGA CLASS WITH GUIDED MEDITATIONS 14:00-14:30 |
| 19:00-19:30 PILATES CLASS            | 16:00-16:30 KAHOOT QUIZ                        |





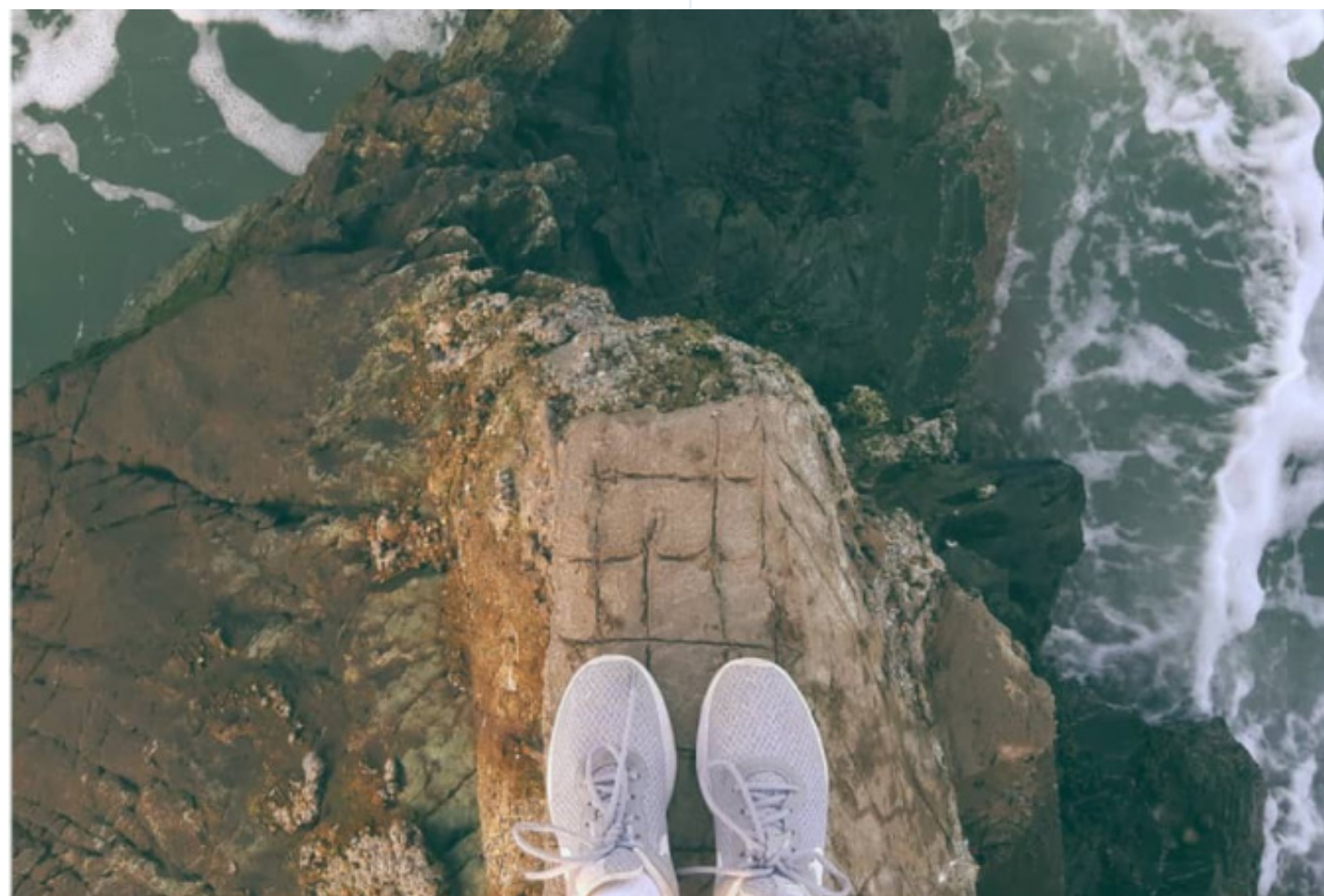
# UCD100

**Healthy UCD and UCD Student Services devised a virtual event for students, challenging them to run, walk or jog 100km in 30 days. Over 1,200 students registered to participate, completing 21,740km and raising €23,115 for UCD St Vincent de Paul.**

Faced with the challenge of providing engaging activities for students during a prolonged period of reduced on-campus activity, Healthy UCD worked with UCD Student Services and Titan Experience to develop the UCD100 event. UCD100 challenged students to run, walk or jog 100km in 30 days from 19th October – 18th November 2020 and log their progress on an online platform developed for the event. They also had the option to create a fundraising page for UCD St Vincent de Paul.

A range of additional content was developed in the areas of nutrition, physical activity and mental wellbeing to support and engage students throughout the event which included podcasts, factsheets and exercise videos. To further encourage engagement, weekly prizes were awarded for the most distance covered, most funds raised, most scenic photo and most interesting photo.

*UCD100 challenged students to run, walk or jog 100km in 30 days from 19th October – 18th November 2020... They also had the option to create a fundraising page for UCD St Vincent de Paul.*



**“** I really appreciate organization of such an initiative! It keeps reminding me to wake up and go for a run, to make a small walk between classes and work and explore places around just by walks: **”**

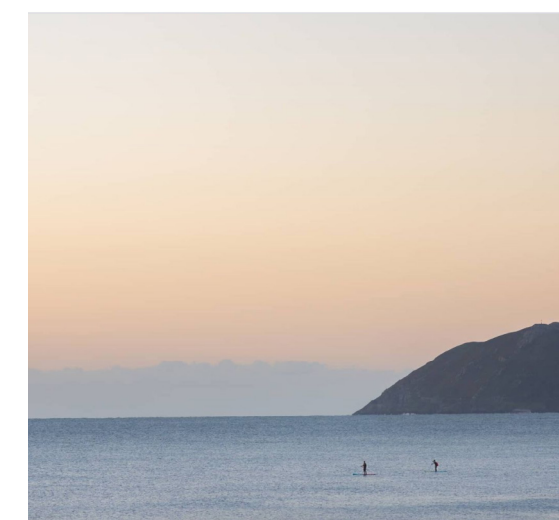
Social media was heavily utilised to promote the event and sustain engagement with support from Healthy UCD's digital ambassador and a student volunteer for the duration of the event.

In total, 1,206 students signed up to take part, completing a distance of 21,740km and raising €23,115 for UCD St Vincent de Paul through 187 fundraising pages. The 100km target was reached by 158 students.

The UCD100 challenge was very successful and inspired several similar challenges including a version for UCD Business alumni and Relay for Life.

Submitted by Maria Heffernan

"I've really enjoyed taking part in the challenge so far and glad that I could make a difference. I really appreciate all of your efforts organising everything involved with UCD 100 - it's a great event to be a part of."





# I-Form, the SFI Research Centre for Advanced Manufacturing (UCD School of Mechanical & Materials Engineering)

## Advanced Manufacturing: 3D Printing & Teacher Training

Funded by SFI Discover, and in partnership with JcT4 and 3DWIT, this project engaged 123 Junior Cycle teachers from around Ireland with 3D printing training and key messages about current careers in advanced manufacturing.

*The project aimed to upskill teachers in the use of 3D printing technology in the classroom.*

'3D printing in the classroom' was a free CPD elective run in spring 2021 by I-Form, the SFI Research Centre for Advanced Manufacturing, in partnership with JcT4 (Junior Cycle for Teachers – Technologies) and 3DWIT, a provider of 3D printing training. The project was funded by SFI Discover.

The target audience was Junior Cycle Technologies teachers across Ireland. A CPD elective was designed in partnership with JcT4, which identified a strong demand among their teachers for programmes tackling new technologies. The project aimed to upskill teachers in the use of 3D printing technology in the classroom, building both their confidence and ability to link 3D printing projects to the curriculum and discussing manufacturing careers with their students.

The project was postponed from 2020 due to Covid-19 and instead ran online from January to April 2021. 123 Junior Cycle teachers from across the country (Donegal to Kerry) attended the CPD elective, delivered through a mix of live

Zoom sessions, pre-recorded video content, and resources (e.g. training manual, tip sheets, career videos). 25 DEIS schools were represented.

The course content included the following:

- Health and Safety; History of 3D printing; Printing processes
- Design for 3D printing rules
- How to use TinkerCad (design software) and Cura (print software)
- Design idea generation
- Print preparation
- 3D printer maintenance
- 3D printing in the classroom – case studies from teachers and curriculum links
- Careers elements – videos showcasing manufacturing as a career

Asked after the training if they intended to introduce or use 3D printing in the classroom, 69 percent of teachers replied 'Yes, with a further



27 percent replying 'I want to, but it depends on access to a printer'.

When asked to rate their overall satisfaction with the training, 87.5 percent gave a score of 8 or higher (on a scale of 1 to 10).

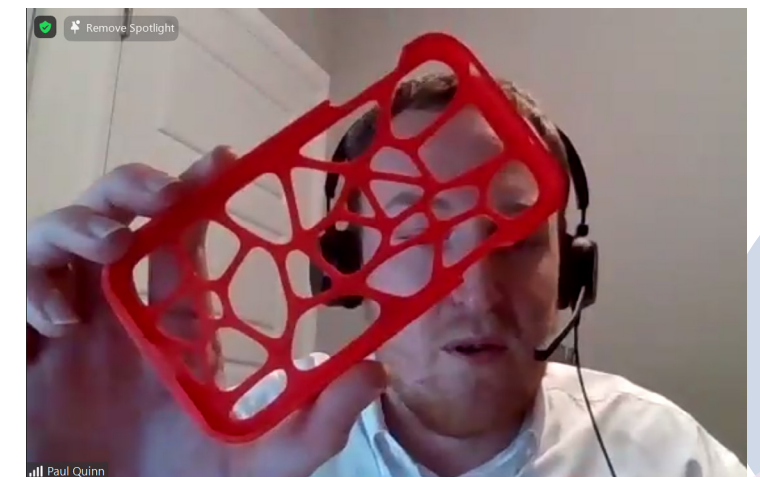
When asked to rate their level of confidence in using 3D printing in the classroom, AFTER the training 66 percent gave themselves a score of 7 or higher. BEFORE the training, 67 percent gave themselves a score of 5 or lower.

When asked to rate their knowledge of manufacturing careers, AFTER the training 62.5 percent of teachers gave themselves a score of 7 or higher. BEFORE the training, 64 percent gave themselves a score of 5 or lower.

Submitted by Sylvia Leatham



*123 Junior Cycle teachers from across the country (Donegal to Kerry) attended the CPD elective.*



# Irish Critical Care-Clinical Trials Network, UCD School of Medicine

## Irish Critical Care-Public and Patient Involvement (ICC-PPI) Group



**Establishment and ongoing activities of an Irish critical care public and patient involvement group to make Irish critical care research patient-centered, accessible and meaningful to the public and patients.**

The 'Irish Critical Care-Public and Patient Involvement (ICC-PPI)' was established in early 2020 by the HRB-Irish Critical Care-Clinical Trials Network (ICC-CTN) at UCD. ICC-PPI is a group of past intensive care unit (ICU) patients and relatives. It is the first of its kind in Ireland and its establishment was an important development in Irish critical care research. It was formed following ICC-CTN public and patient involvement and engagement work as part of the EU-funded PREPARE (preparing for pandemics) consortium which looked at public and clinician opinions through large multi-country surveys and focus groups (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26715077/>, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31557667/>, and <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28960624/>). Results have informed how we do clinical trials.

ICC-PPI currently consists of 8 active members, all bringing their unique experiences of ICU and research from patient and relative perspectives, and is coordinated by the ICC-CTN at UCD. The objective of the group is to advise on and support the undertaking of high-quality critical care research in Ireland. To promote the conduct of research that is patient-centered, accessible, and meaningful to the public and patients. This includes a review of studies, trial processes, trial documents, and dissemination plans. With several meetings to date, the group is informing critical care research.

The inaugural ICC-PPI meeting planned for early 2020 was moved online and held in June 2020 due to the pandemic. This first meeting was highly informative and centered on discussion of the ICU experience, including research. Some members of the group had been involved in research during their ICU stay. We have had two further meetings (August 2020 and April 2021). The second meeting focused on the consent and assent process (including review of a consent form) in critical care research which is complicated by the critical nature of the research often involving patients who lack capacity at the time of initial consent due to their illness and reliance on medical care.

The third meeting focused on dissemination, particularly to patients and the public, and COVID-19 research. The meetings have been highly discussed, informative and enjoyable. They have led to several important action points which we are currently implementing. Future activities will include a review of trial processes, documents, data sharing, and trial design.

*It is the first of its kind in Ireland and its establishment was an important development in Irish critical care research.*

We are very excited about what this group will achieve, how it will benefit critical care research throughout Ireland and incorporate the public and patient voice. We are further establishing PPI networks and groups internationally enhancing this work.

Submitted by Prof Alistair Nichol



*To promote the conduct of research that is patient-centered, accessible, and meaningful to the public and patients.*



# Jacob Eisenberg

## Applied Management Consulting Projects in the Community

**During the fall semester, several teams of students from the Smurfit Graduate Business School MSc Management Consultancy program contributed to multiple NGOs and Community Organisations by providing non-paid consultancy management work.**

In the past year, these field projects benefited organisations such as Terenure College, The Westmeath Volunteer Centre, and the Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation.

Feedback given by the organisations was very positive and appreciative.

As part of the assessment in the module Organisation Behaviour, a core module for the Management Consultancy MSc program, students are encouraged to contribute to NGO, non-profit and community organisations through brief consultancy projects.

**3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



## Applied Cross-Cultural Management Projects in the Community

**During the fall semester, several teams of students from the Smurfit Graduate Business School MSc International Business program contributed to multiple NGOs and Community Organisations by providing non-paid cross-cultural management work.**

community organisations through brief applied research projects.

In the past year, these applied projects benefited organisations such as SOS Children's Villages worldwide. Feedback given by the organisations was very positive and appreciative.

**3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



**4** QUALITY EDUCATION



As part of the assessment in the module Cross-Cultural Management, a core module for the International Business MSc program, students are encouraged to contribute to NGOs, non-profit and

## Applied Creativity Projects in the Community

**During the fall semester, several teams of students from the Smurfit Graduate Business School MSc Management and Accountancy programs contributed to the community and public well-being through designing non-paid interventions in applied creativity.**

As part of the assessment in the module Creative Problem Solving, an elective module for several Smurfit Graduate Business School's MSc programs, students are encouraged to contribute applied creativity ideas and projects that can enhance public well-being and help NGOs and community programs.

In the past year, these applied creativity projects addressed issues related to enhancing public health and wellbeing and educational attainment and engagement. The beneficiaries included Crosscare, Donnybrook Tennis Lawn Club, and St Vincent's Hospital.

Submitted by Jacob Eisenberg

**3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



*Several teams of students.... contributed to multiple NGOs and Community Organisations.*



# Systems Biology Ireland

## Amgen Biotech Experience Ireland

### Researchers helping teachers deliver cutting edge biotechnology labs and lessons in schools.

Amgen Biotech Experience (ABE) Ireland is the Irish site of the global education programme aiming to equip teachers to deliver cutting edge biotechnology labs in the classroom. We train teachers and offer loans of the equipment and samples needed. ABE Ireland has been hosted at Systems Biology Ireland with support from the UCD Conway Institute since 2014. We have worked with 190 teachers from 120 schools and ABE Ireland labs have been delivered to 12,000 secondary school students.

In 2020/21, we trained 24 teachers from schools across Ireland, in-person and online, in five workshops. At each training event, a researcher from UCD gave a talk on their research and career to give teachers an insight into the daily life of scientists and to answer teachers' questions about careers in STEM. This year, teachers met Dr Virginie Gautier, Associate Professor, School of Medicine and UCD Conway Institute, on 5th September and Associate Professor Siobhán McClean, UCD Conway Institute, on 12th September at workshops



PhD student Catherine Mahoney tells teachers about her research and career in an online workshop



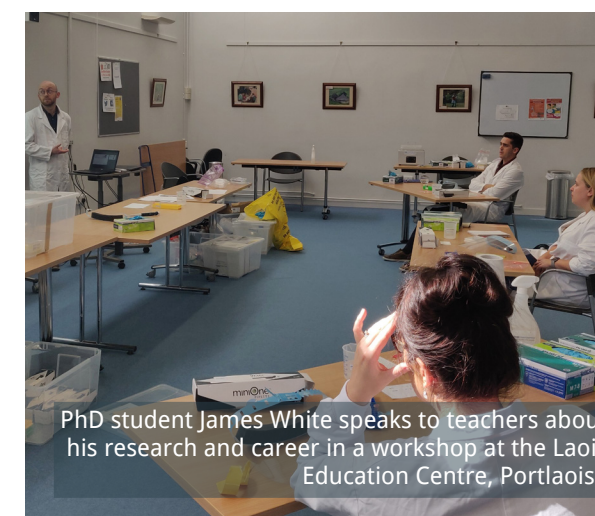
Teachers learning micro pipetting techniques at a training workshop in UCD Conway Institute, September 2020

in the UCD Conway Institute; James White, PhD candidate at UCD Conway Institute, at a workshop at the Portlaoise Education Centre on 8th September; and Catherine Mahoney, PhD candidate at UCD Conway Institute and Dr Simona Catozzi, Systems Biology Ireland, at online bioinformatics training workshops in November 2020 and February 2021.

**Teachers told us the researchers' talks were useful and interesting:**

*"Thanks to Catherine, really interesting talk."*  
*"Simona was great to hear from."*

We made recordings of these talks available to teachers to use in their schools.



PhD student James White speaks to teachers about his research and career in a workshop at the Laois Education Centre, Portlaoise

In May 2021, we hosted a Teacher Appreciation Event online when we invited ABE Ireland teachers, their principals, and colleagues from global ABE sites and the Amgen biotech plant in Dun Laoghaire to celebrate teachers who went above and beyond for their students during the previous school year. Assistant Professor Dr Nicola Fletcher, Lecturer and Assistant Professor at the School of Veterinary Medicine and a Fellow of the Conway Institute, UCD spoke on "A One Health approach to research: how viruses exploit our interconnected world."

In August 2021, we partnered with Business in the Community Ireland, the group funded by the Department of Education to increase links between schools and local communities, on two events to promote ABE Ireland to teachers in Cavan/Monaghan and Laois/Offaly. Ciara Lynch, PhD candidate in BiOrbic Bioeconomy Research Centre and the UCD Conway Institute spoke at both events on her research work and career to the 21 teachers who attended.

Submitted by Síle Lane





# Systems Biology Ireland and UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular & Biomedical Research

## Transition year work placement week



Transition year students and postgraduate researchers in the Conway Institute lecture theatre

### Transition year students worked with postgraduate and post-doc researchers on a week of hands on lab experiences.

In April 2021 the UCD Conway Institute and Systems Biology Ireland welcomed eight transition year students onto the first iteration of our new structured work placement programme. The students came from five different schools in Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow. Eleven post-graduate and post-doctoral researchers from our two research institutes planned and delivered the week of activities for the students in person.

The transition year students were given training in lab techniques and lab safety, hands-on laboratory activities including growing bacteria, DNA profiling, human tissue staining and neuroscience activities. The students also learnt coding and how computers and coding are used in biological research. The researchers delivered interactive talks on jobs and

careers in research and scientists from different sectors including from local biotechnology company, Amgen and the National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training spoke to the students via Zoom.

### Transition year students told us:

*"I particularly enjoyed the anatomy, neuroscience and coding sessions. They were all very informative and eye opening. I learned a lot."*

*The researchers delivered interactive talks on jobs and careers in research.*



Transition year students work on neuroscience experiments outside the UCD Conway Institute

*"It's opened up my eyes to what a science career involves and the determination that must be put into every element. During a time like this, getting hands-on learning from incredibly inspiring individuals has been one of the highlights of the year."*



Transition year student Faye being guided in human tissue staining by PhD student Sarah Lussoso, UCD Charles Institute of Dermatology



Researchers from UCD Conway Institute and Systems Biology Ireland said:

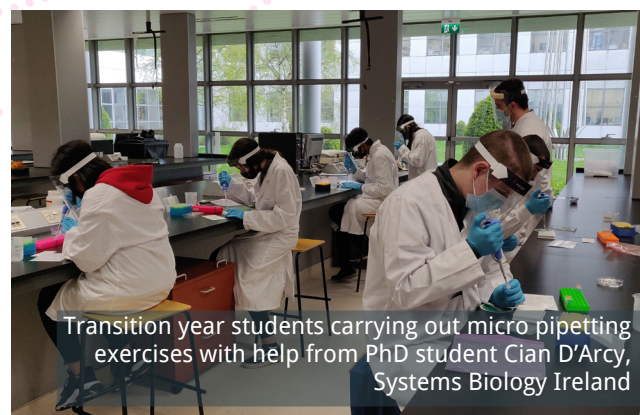
*"I enjoyed thinking about how to engage a non-expert audience with a different level of background knowledge than I am used to presenting to."*

*"It improved on my science communication skills and it was great to see some of the students inspired by the research that they learned about during the week."*

The placement week from 12th to 16th April 2021 was run as a pilot for a programme funded by the SFI Discover programme and the Amgen Biotech Experience education programme. We will take what we learnt from feedback from students and researchers to develop three more work placement weeks in the 2021/22 school year.



Transition year students work on a poster activity



Transition year students carrying out micro pipetting exercises with help from PhD student Cian D'Arcy, Systems Biology Ireland

This programme is run in partnership with UCD Access and Lifelong Learning (UCD ALL) to ensure equity of access. UCD ALL has a network of 19 linked DEIS-designated schools in the community surrounding UCD and the majority of places on these placement weeks will be allocated to students from those schools.

Submitted by Síle Lane



The group of transition year students outside the UCD Conway Institute



Transition year students and postgraduate researchers work together to prepare presentations



# UCD Alumni Development

## UCD Festival@home 2021



### UCD Festival@home virtually connects and engages the global UCD Community.

The annual award-winning UCD Festival brings together the global UCD community of staff, students, alumni, future students and the wider general public for an inspiring showcase of events that celebrate UCD.

When the social distancing restrictions of the pandemic hit in March 2020 the concept of a hands-on, in-person event had to be adapted and so the UCD Festival@home was created. In these unprecedented times, we were determined to maintain interest in the work of this great University and the digital festival provided the perfect opportunity to reach a wide global audience from the comfort of their homes.

Colleagues across campus came together to create the next best thing to the physical festival and for the second year running the UCD Festival@home took place entirely online from May 27-29 2021, with three days of over 100 exciting free virtual events for everyone to enjoy at home and beyond the Festival weekend itself.

With 295,000 alumni in 185 countries globally, pivoting to an '@home' format enabled UCD's global communities of alumni, students and friends to connect and experience the festival

for the first time. Festival audiences were invited to join on smartphones, smartTV's, tablets and laptops for three days of inspiring, engaging and informative events, the '@home' festival format mixed live online events, pre-recorded never seen performances, with demonstrations, workshops, virtual tours and exercise classes.

*Over the course of the 2021 festival weekend a global audience of 23,500 engaged with the festival from across 101 countries.*

*All the inspiring, engaging, informative and fun activities of the regular festival remained.*



### Emilie Pine In Conversation with Sophie White and Emma Dabiri



Although the UCD Festival moved online these past two years, all the inspiring, engaging, informative and fun activities of the regular festival remained. A key highlight of UCD Festival@home was how it embraced technology to continue in a new virtual space. The online editions of the festival took place via the UCD Festival@home website and through the UCD Festival YouTube, Zoom, Soundcloud and Facebook channels.

Over the course of the 2021 festival weekend a global audience of 23,500 engaged with the festival from across 101 countries. This virtual global audience of alumni, faculty, staff, students, future



*We are grateful to the resilience, innovation and support of so many alumni and friends who joined us as speakers at events.*

students and friends of the University continue to engage with the festival content long after the event.

A day like the UCD Festival is not possible without the collaboration, support and hard work of hundreds of UCD faculty, staff, students and volunteers. It is the UCD staff's contributions of time and effort that made the festival so unique, memorable and inspirational for thousands of virtual attendees, allowing them to access UCD in a new and exciting way.

We are grateful to the resilience, innovation and support of so many alumni and friends who joined us as speakers at events as we found new ways to present the festival and expand our digital and worldwide audiences.

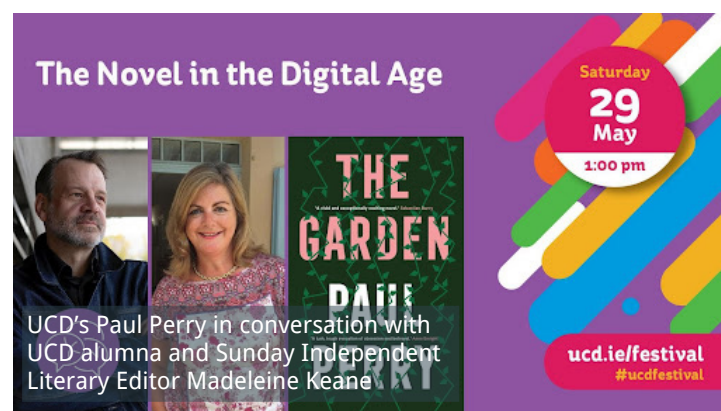
The UCD Festival@home simply would also not be possible without the support and collaboration of the schools, colleges and units within UCD and our generous sponsors and partners at such a challenging time for their business; Intel, Medtronic, Museum of Literature



*It is the UCD staff's contributions of time and effort that made the festival so unique, memorable and inspirational for thousands of virtual attendees, allowing them to access UCD in a new and exciting way.*

Ireland, Nova UCD, Healthy UCD, Virgin Dublin International Film Festival, Glór na Gael, Biorbic and CoderDojo.

UCD Festival@home online edition featured over 100 free events across six categories, there were live Conversations, science shows and interactive workshops from festival sponsors, partners and collaborators. It is not possible to go through the extensive festival programme, however, you can still access Over 35 hours of content, it is available for you to enjoy from the UCD Festival@



maintained an interest in the research and work of UCD and the online edition of the festival provided the perfect opportunity to reach our worldwide audience from the comfort of their homes.

The 2021 UCD Festival@home sponsors and partners; Intel, Medtronic, Museum of Literature Ireland, Nova UCD, Healthy UCD, Virgin Dublin International Film Festival, Glór na Gael, Biorbic and CoderDojo.

Submitted by Sheila Morris

home website at [www.ucd.ie/festival](http://www.ucd.ie/festival) and the UCD Festival [YouTube Channel](#).



UCD Festival@home embraced UCD's Rising to the Future Strategy using technology to present events, expand our digital and worldwide audiences but most importantly, to continue with the festival in a virtual space. In these unprecedented times, it was vital that we

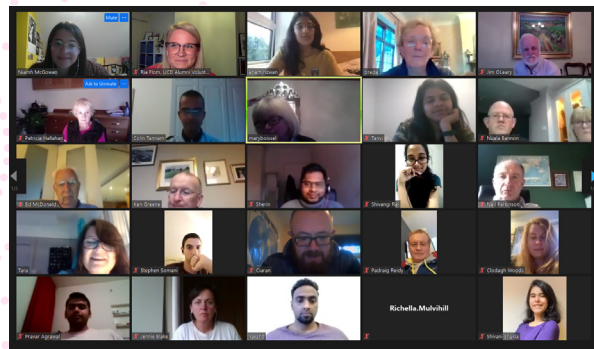


**Keep a lookout on the UCD Festival website and UCD publications for information about UCD Festival 2022, which will take place on campus on 11 June 2022.**



# UCD Alumni

## UCD Alumni Volunteering Programme



**Alumni Volunteers make a difference at UCD. By volunteering, alumni enrich the lives of current students and help build a vibrant community. Despite the challenges in 2020-2021, alumni showed immense generosity and commitment as they continued volunteering in virtual ways.**

UCD is shaped and sustained by the involvement of alumni across the University. We are grateful to the 5,000+ alumni who have volunteered to support students, fellow alumni, and the wider UCD community in recent years. Alumni volunteering activity was as vibrant as ever this year, despite the need to move activities online!

Our growing list of mentoring and alumni buddy programmes reached hundreds of students this past year. The UCD Career Mentoring Programme supported over 300 students across 4 colleges (Arts & Humanities, Social Sciences & Law, Engineering & Architecture, and Science) and bespoke mentoring programmes across the College of Business continued to thrive and engaged over 200 students. The Alumni Buddy Programme brought together incoming international students and local alumni virtually,

*UCD is shaped and sustained by the involvement of alumni across the University.*

helping them to settle into life in Ireland despite the country being in lockdown.

Alumni based around the world volunteered to support student recruitment efforts. Our Global Alumni Ambassador Programme, for example, ensured prospective UCD students had access to alumni who could offer first hand advice and reassurance about studying at UCD and life in Ireland.

Throughout the year, alumni contributed as speakers at virtual events including Alumni Career Panels, Open Days and Graduate Study events, Women in Leadership 2021, UCD Festival @home, UCD In Conversation series, UCD What it Takes series, Overseas Chapter events, and



many more. They shared encouraging words and testimonials as part of online campaigns and in one-to-one conversations on the UCD Alumni Network ([www.ucdalumninetwork.com](http://www.ucdalumninetwork.com)).

We are eternally grateful to our alumni mentors, buddies, speakers, panellists, and media contributors who have volunteered their time and hope to encourage more alumni to become involved in the future.

From mentoring students and speaking at events, to writing testimonials and contributing to virtual conferring ceremonies and orientation videos, alumni made a real difference to the University community in so many ways. Volunteering with UCD not only provides an opportunity to impact the lives of current students, but can also spark meaningful personal connections, broaden horizons, advance skills and expertise, and cultivate innovative thinking.

Submitted by Ria Flom and Namh McGowan



**To learn more about getting involved** in an initiative or programme to suit your schedule and interests or to register your interest in creating volunteer roles in your College, School, or Unit, join the UCD Alumni Network ([www.ucdalumninetwork.com](http://www.ucdalumninetwork.com)), visit [www.ucd.ie/alumni/volunteering](http://www.ucd.ie/alumni/volunteering), email the team at [alumnivolunteer@ucd.ie](mailto:alumnivolunteer@ucd.ie) or call +353 1 716 1232.





# UCD Careers Network and UCD Alumni Relations

## UCD Career Mentoring Programme

The UCD Career Mentoring Programme is a joint initiative delivered by the UCD Careers Network and UCD Alumni Relations. The programme began in 2014 with 10 students and we now get applications from over 300 students.

This programme provides students with an amazing opportunity to network with professional alumni mentors who are able to offer support in developing their career ideas, clarifying their goals and improving their employability.

Mentees select their mentors online via the UCD Alumni Network. Both alumni and students are trained and supported to navigate this process. Mentoring sessions take place by Zoom/Teams, by telephone, or face-to-face at least 3 times in 6 months (January – June).

Alumni mentors are volunteers who come from a range of different backgrounds with vast knowledge and a range of experience. They provide a sounding board and offer practical

*“I found it really helpful to receive honest and down to earth advice directly from someone who had also completed my course and successfully acquired a job. It was a fantastic opportunity to network with real highly qualified professionals”.*



information on specific roles and sectors, including what is required to work in that area and what their day-to-day job involves. The aim of this programme is to support students at a critical time in their career, as they begin making decisions in relation to employment, internships or further study.

Overall the feedback from the mentoring programme is excellent and the time and commitment given by alumni mentors is valued. Thank you to all of the volunteers who give their time to make this programme an ongoing success.

This programme makes a big difference for all involved. It helps build the UCD community, it inspires active citizenship, and it empowers students to foster essential connections that will continue to benefit them as they set off into the working world.

Submitted by Rebecca Boyle



Here's what mentees have said about the programme:

- 77% of students felt more confident approaching their career planning as a result of participating in this programme
- 72% of students know more about roles/career paths/sectors that might interest them as a result of this programme
- 87% of students would recommend this programme to other students

*This programme makes a big difference for all involved.*



# UCD Careers Network - Michelle Coen, Career & Skills Consultant

## Social Impact Recruitment Week for UCD students

**'Social Impact Week 2021' was a new event created in response to the growing desire of UCD students to work in ethically conscious organisations, in roles that do make a difference.**

Social Impact Recruitment Week took place from the 29th March - 01st April 2021 following the success of the first Social Impact week in 2020. The event was originally developed as an on-campus recruitment fair but was transformed into a week-long Instagram live extravaganza, in response to social distancing guidelines introduced in 2020. The event was designed to create opportunities for students from Arts & Humanities and Social Sciences & Law to engage with employers in NGOs and charities. As part of the week-long event, each day, specifically designed content was shared about each organisation, which was followed by a live virtual chat on Instagram Live with industry professionals including GOAL, For Purpose, Focus Ireland, Gobait's House, and the Peter McVerry Trust.

The structure of the event enabled students, graduates, and employers to engage virtually every day for a week, providing students with valuable insights into a career within this sector, including new vacancies. Employers also had the opportunity to raise brand awareness and strengthen their relationship with the Higher Education sector. The advantage of using the Instagram platform is that it allows many engagement opportunities and a wider reach.

Social Impact Week resulted in the development of new partnerships and strengthened existing relationships with professionals in the not-for-profit sector. The employer evaluations indicate that 100% of respondents rated this event as an excellent way of promoting their brand and opportunities and 100% rated engagement with UCD students as excellent.

A total of 296 students engaged with Social Impact Week 2021 through live attendance of the event and post-event viewing.

*In response to the growing desire of UCD students to work in ethically conscious organisations.*



### Student feedback indicates that:

- 100% of attendees feel more confident or somewhat more confident about applying for roles in the charity and not-for-profit sector as a result of attending this event.
- 100% of attendees would definitely or probably recommend this event to other students.

Social Impact Recruitment Week was awarded the AHECS Award for Excellence in Strategic innovation in recognition of the initiative in 2021.

Submitted by Michelle Coen



*Social Impact Week resulted in the development of new partnerships and strengthened existing relationships with professionals in the not-for-profit sector.*



# UCD CELT Network

## Community-Engaged Learning and Teaching in UCD



**CELT**

Community Engaged Learning and Teaching

**The UCD CELT (Community-Engaged Learning and Teaching) Network aims to contribute to the professional development of those interested in community-engaged learning and teaching within UCD.**

Community-engaged learning and teaching is considered to be transformative for students and practitioners, underpinned by civic participation in community and society. One of the strategic themes of the UCD Rising to the Future Strategy is "Building a Healthy World" a core objective of which is to "continue to build our engagement locally, nationally and internationally".

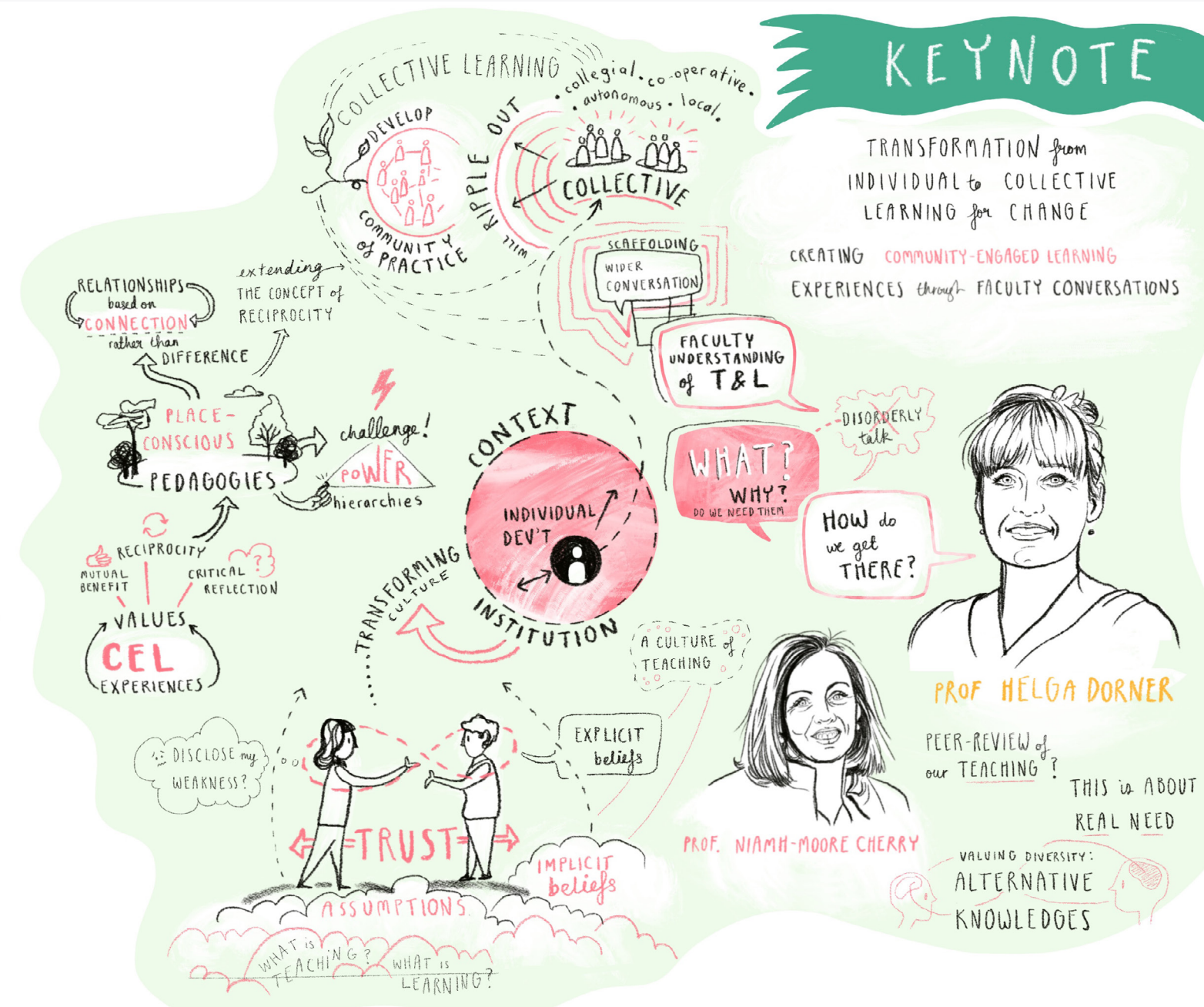
Community-engaged learning (CEL) and teaching affords the university an opportunity to build and strengthen strong partnerships with social and community organisations in a meaningful and transformative way. It provides faculty, students and community organisations opportunities to engage in a symbiotic manner, learning from each other whilst bridging the gap between academic learning and the lived reality(ies) of society.

From September 2020 until April 2021 we hosted monthly Cups of Cha(t) via Zoom to establish the community and bring people together in an informal way to hear more from peers/students about their experience of CEL. It was the interdisciplinarity of the community which really gave such strength and depth to conversations. The community comprised of people experienced in adopting CEL as pedagogy in their teaching and those who were there to learn more. It also included students who had experienced the CEL approach as well as those who wanted to learn more.

The CELT Network grew from strength to strength as the year progressed with circa 50 members encompassing faculty, academics and students (across all Colleges) signed up to our email list and culminating in over 90 people registering for the inaugural CELT Symposium reflecting on "The Transformative Power of Community Engaged Learning".

THE TRANSFORMATIVE  
POWER of COMMUNITY  
-ENGAGED LEARNING

UCD CELT  
Symposium  
MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> 2021



*"It was great meeting colleagues from across the university in a more informal setting and finding out what work they are doing in the community."*

The symposium featured a keynote address, a panel discussion and an informal discussion. Assoc Prof Helga Dornan (Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), Hungary) delivered the keynote address, chaired by Assoc Prof Niamh Moore Cherry (VP Teaching and Learning, UCD College of Social Science and Law) around the theme 'From the Individual to the Collective: Creating Community-engaged learning experiences through faculty conversations'.

A panel discussion followed featuring Asst Prof Sarah Morton (UCD School of Social Work, Social Policy and Social Justice), Dr Laura O'Reilly (Urrús Addiction Training Centre, Ballymun Youth Action Project) and Sinead Jordan (Graduate of the Community Drugs Programme & Northside Partnership, Coolock).







# UCD College of Business

## 'Creatives Against Covid' Art Display



### After an unprecedented year, UCD Quinn School honoured 2020 Grads with a permanent art exhibition.

On the 12th of March 2020, life at the UCD Quinn School changed radically, as it did for every university, school and college around Ireland, as the response to the global pandemic took hold.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



As the weeks turned to months, turned to seasons, a group of Irish designers and creatives called 'Creatives Against Covid' got together a project to capture images and designs that reflected some of the feelings of this time.

Feelings of resilience, feelings of hopefulness and the desire for all the things that we missed. Those images resonated with what our community has sacrificed—the feeling of being together, the joy and the ordinariness of the everyday college experience.

UCD Quinn School is proud to permanently display some of these art works in support of ISPCC Childline and Women's Aid, and most especially in honour of the graduating class of 2020 who will always have a place in the School.

## Online Masterclass with Mark Pollock: Turning Challenges into Opportunities

**Mark Pollock shared how to build resilience and maintain motivation, embrace change and unexpected challenges and chart a path through uncertainty.**

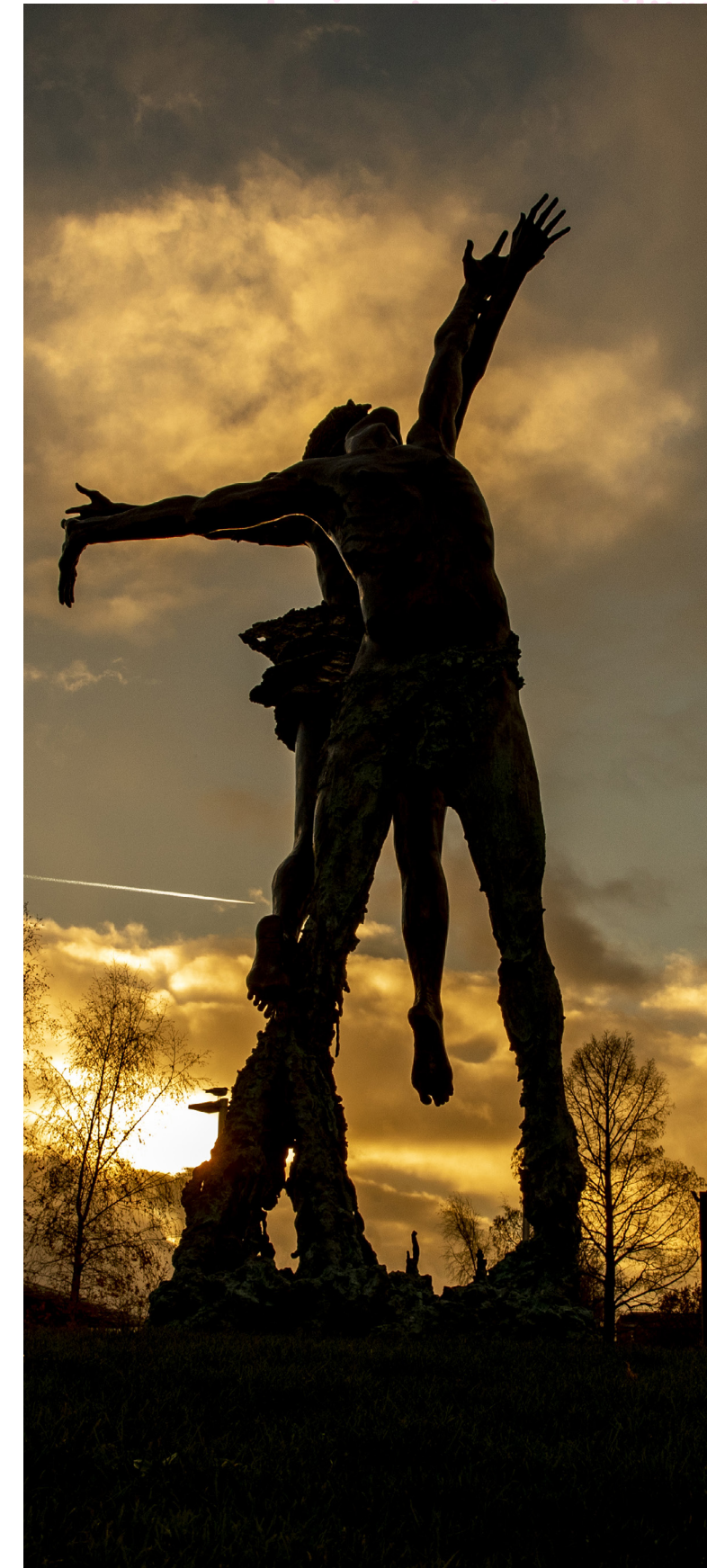
UCD Business Alumni Relations invited UCD Quinn and Smurfit School students to participate in an Online Masterclass Event with Mark Pollock, UCD Smurfit School Alumnus and International Motivational Speaker, Explorer, and Author from Ireland who became the first blind man to race to the South Pole.

Sometimes we choose our challenges, sometimes our challenges choose us. What we decide to do about them is what counts. During this webinar, Mark shared how to build resilience and maintain motivation, embrace change and unexpected challenges and chart a path through uncertainty.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



*"Sometimes we choose our challenges, sometimes our challenges choose us."*





## UCD Quinn School and UCD Smurfit School Mentoring Programmes

**Mentoring programmes prove a rewarding experience for both mentor and mentee.**

One of our highlights this academic year has been the introduction of the Smurfit GLP Mentoring Programme, one of the co-curricular activities made available to our Graduate Leadership Programme (GLP) student participants. We were delighted to have over 100 alumni mentors participating from locations including the U.S., Europe, Hong Kong, Singapore and Australia.

The UCD Quinn Business Mentoring Programme for the second year undergraduate students is now in its third year and has seen tremendous growth to over 150 student participants.

These programmes are in addition to several other well-established mentoring programmes, including the MBA Mentoring Programme and CEMS Masters in International Management Mentoring Programme, are only made possible thanks to our wonderful alumni volunteers.

The mentoring programmes have received fantastic feedback and can be a very rewarding experience for both mentor and mentee.



*“These programmes....are only made possible thanks to our wonderful alumni volunteers.”*



## Leading Multicultural Teams Webinar Series

**A curated series of bespoke student events were designed to enhance their resilience and readiness for the workplace.**

UCD Smurfit School students are facing very unusual times and Business Alumni Relations are committed to giving them the best possible student experience. A curated series of bespoke student events were designed to enhance their resilience and readiness for the workplace. We wanted to prepare our students for careers in an increasingly complex and dynamic multicultural environment.

‘Leading Multicultural Teams’ panel discussion is the first in a series of exclusive events designed to complement in-class learnings. The event featured a panel of successful alumni from leading multicultural companies as they discussed the challenges of working with team members from different backgrounds and cultures as well as the benefits these diverse teams can offer to organisations. Panellists also discussed what impact remote working has on their teams and how they have operated effectively during this challenging time.

Speakers included:

- Galvea Kelly, BBLS '06, MBS '08, CMO at Collective
- Sarah Cunningham, BBLS '01, Vice President of Mastercard's Dublin Technology Hub; Diversity & Inclusion Advocate & Speaker
- Martin Ryan, BComm '99, MBS '02, Global Senior Strategy Director at Kerry Group

Moderated by Anne Keegan, UCD Professor of Human Resource Management.



# UCD Business Alumni Challenge

## Wellness challenge brings alumni together from around the globe.

When COVID-19 arrived the UCD College of Business Alumni team considered how might we turn a challenge into an opportunity and deepen engagement with our Alumni virtually.

*The initiative  
created deep  
and meaningful  
engagement.*

The solution was the creation of the UCD Business Alumni Challenge ‘Around the Globe in 30 Days’—a virtual, active well-being challenge held in February 2021 over 30 days with participants walking, running, jogging, rowing, swimming or cycling distances of 100, 200 or 300KM. Our objective was to collectively transverse the globe.

The Alumni Relations team lead worked with an external company to build an online portal that would be used to:

- Capture registrations for the challenge & clock participant distances
- Connect participants with each other
- Create connections by sharing images throughout the 30-day period
- Share content & resources with participants to motivate them throughout the challenge under 4 themes:
  - Motivation & Mindset
  - Nutrition & Healthy Eating
  - Mental & Physical Wellbeing
  - Leadership & Inspiration

Content contributors were sourced from across the UCD alumni community and a wide range of resources, created to support and deeply engage our alumni participants, were added to the challenge platform – a mix of interviews, podcasts, training plans, recipes, and workout videos. Participants were also invited to tune in to some live events.

The impact was immense. The challenge was a fantastic success with over 1,000 alumni, located in over 40 countries and across 5 continents participating and clocking an incredible 88,000+km during the 30 days, meaning that we collectively circumnavigated the globe more than twice and had some great fun along the way.

*It was uplifting to hear how the challenge had positively impacted so many within our alumni community.*

On the final day, we held a live virtual event to mark the end of the challenge and invited some of our participants to share their challenge stories and reasons for participation. It was uplifting to hear how the challenge had positively impacted so many within our alumni community. In the words of one alum, 'In these dark pandemic times, it was a very uplifting event that encouraged us to get up and move and, in turn, feel ownership for our improved wellbeing'.

The initiative created deep and meaningful engagement, in a way that we never anticipated at the outset. A level of engagement and connection which we would never have previously achieved with a short duration in-person alumni event, such as a breakfast seminar or social gathering. In particular, many of our overseas participants embraced the opportunity to reconnect with UCD and with Ireland, as they yearned for a connection to home.

### 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

## 4 QUALITY EDUCATION





# The Tumaini La Maisha (TLM) Project



## UCD College of Business students support Hope for Life Tanzanian children's cancer charity with business expertise.

TUMAINI LA MAISHA (TLM) - Hope for Life in Swahili - is a Tanzanian children's cancer charity registered in 2011. Our mission is to improve access to quality free paediatric oncology services so that no child in Tanzania suffers or dies unnecessarily from cancer.

In 2019, TLM managed to treat up to 726 children

and plan to annually reach 4000 kids in the future. TLM partners with the government providing comprehensive free cancer care to children across the National Network for Paediatric Oncology (NNPO). The goal is to increase the current 11 sites to a minimum of 30 so that no child is more than 4 hours from care.

With appropriate resources, it is possible to cure 80% of the 300,000 children diagnosed with cancer in the world annually. Sadly 90% at risk live in low and middle income countries (LMIC), where survival is shockingly low (20%). TLM aims to help narrow this gap through better data management tools and technical support. They are currently developing and testing 2 digital health applications: an electronic medical record system and automated chemotherapy prescribing tool also known as SAFE CHEMO. The applications support medical workers to (1) standardize the quality of patient data (2) simplify treatment tracking & patient follow-up (3) remove 95% of all chemotherapy prescription errors (many of which can be life-threatening).

As TLM gets the applications ready to market, they needed help in understanding appropriate social enterprise models to distribute these innovations at a modest fee to sustain TLM'S operations in Tanzania and possibly other developing countries. They sought the support of UCD College of Business students to help them establish:

- Pricing structure and mechanism
- Supply factors relevant in non-control areas
- User design considerations to replicate impact in non-control areas

Four student groups involving 22 students from across the Smurfit and Quinn Schools worked with faculty on the following projects between

March and July 2021: Sales and Marketing Value Proposition with Professor Susi Geiger, Market Access with Dr Penelope Muzanhamo, Financial Projections, Organisational/Legal Form with Professor Cal Muckley, and Transformation, Impact and Sustainability with Professor Andy Prothero.



## 'An Hour of Optimism' at UCD Festival Event

### As part of this year's UCD Festival, UCD Business Alumni hosted a virtual event 'An Hour of Optimism' with Project Optimism.

As part of this year's UCD Festival, UCD Business Alumni hosted a virtual event 'An Hour of Optimism' with Project Optimism. This uplifting event was brought to UCD alumni live from Melbourne, Australia, by UCD BComm Alumna Noirin Mosley, along with two of her Project Optimism colleagues: Victor Perton and Jenny Boymal.

Panellists described how optimism just might be the most important force in our times. The event explored optimism and how asking the question 'what makes us optimistic' lifts us all to a lighter and brighter place.





# Student Teams Engage with Charities to Raise Funds and Awareness

## MSc in Project Management Tools and Techniques Charity Projects raises over €40,000.

Every year since 2008, the students on the MSc in Project Management programme at UCD Smurfit School have completed a very special assignment as part of their module "Tools & Techniques". Each student team chooses a different charity and then engages with that organisation to see how best they can help. It may be fundraising by running events, or it might be raising awareness through social media campaigns or other outreach efforts. To date, they've raised over €600,000 for a variety of worthy causes.

Led by Assistant Professor Joe Houghton, Director, MSc in Project Management programme, students plan and execute their projects, measure their impact, and document their progress, and hurdles, as they go. At the end of the semester, we celebrate their efforts with an event where all the various projects are presented with members from each charity in attendance.

In 2020, even faced with the entirety of their studies being completed online, the student teams still rose to the challenge, raising over €40,000 for charities including The Peter McVerry Trust, Special Olympics Ireland, Laura Lynn Children's Hospice, Suas International, Crumlin Children's Hospital, Temple Street Children's Hospital, the RNLI, Cystic Fibrosis Ireland, The Irish Hospice Foundation, Blood Bikes, and the Capuchin Day Centre.

Over the past 10 years, Smurfit students have raised well over €600,000 for a multitude of worthy causes, creating positive outcomes and reaching lives across the world with their efforts. For many, this is the students' first encounter with the charity sector, and it has led students to engage with the sector outside their studies, even becoming directors of charities to further help, and igniting a passion for community engagement - and some, changing career path to move into the sector for employment.

It's very common for feedback from the programme to highlight this assignment as one of the highlights of their time at Smurfit, and it's a great example of how university study is about helping our students become global citizens, with a wider awareness and consideration for social issues and needs than might otherwise be the case.



JAN 2020

# CHARITY ASSIGNMENT

MSC IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT - UCD SMURFIT  
BMGT43880 TOOLS & TECHNIQUES - JAN-APR 2020

Over the past 10 years, Smurfit students have raised well over €600,000 for a multitude of worthy causes.

## FUNDRAISING &/OR AWARENESS RAISING

2020 MODULE CO-ORDINATORS - JOE HOUGHTON & ROBERT MANNING

- Put your programme learnings into practice
- Organise your stakeholders to achieve time-bound objectives
- Plan and execute a real project
- Overcome difficulties, competing demands and pressures of competition
- Foster team building and mutual reliance to achieve your goals

## WHAT'S INVOLVED?

- 01 Choose a charity**
- 02 Plan your campaign**
- 03 Execute the plan**
- 04 Document your process**



# UCD Leadership in Healthcare Network Virtual Conference

**This conference brought health and business leaders together to examine the first wave of COVID-19 in Ireland from healthcare delivery and organisational standpoint, and to gain understanding into emerging aspects of the societal and economic fallout from the pandemic.**

On September 19, 2020, the UCD Leadership in Healthcare Network hosted an online conference - Leadership during a Pandemic: Charting a course for healthcare, society and the economy. This conference was a collaboration between UCD Smurfit School and the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland in partnership with Roche.

This virtual conference brought health and business leaders together to examine the first wave of COVID-19 in Ireland from both healthcare delivery and organisational standpoint, and to gain further understanding into emerging aspects of the societal and economic fallout from the pandemic in Ireland.

Speakers at the conference included a long list of healthcare and business industry experts in Ireland, including Dr Ronan Glynn, Acting Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health; Dr Colm Henry, Chief Clinical Officer, HSE; Finbarr Kenny, Director of Ireland, Roche Diagnostics; and Dr Nuala O'Connor, ICGP Lead COVID-19. Speakers discussed a number of relevant themes related to tackling COVID-19 over the coming months, including the need for truly integrated healthcare solutions, the importance of rebuilding the economy to ensure progression in healthcare on a national level, and solutions to overcome the current crisis in Ireland caused by the global pandemic.

*"Ireland is widely regarded as having prepared for and responded well to the pandemic. This came about by exemplary leadership in many sectors to find solutions to seemingly unfathomable problems... We want to conclude our conference with imperative public policy implications which our UCD Leadership in Healthcare Network can advance for our future."*

*This virtual conference brought health and business leaders together to examine the first wave of COVID-19 in Ireland.*



Professor Gerardine Doyle, Director of UCD Smurfit School, stated, "Ireland is widely regarded as having prepared for and responded well to the pandemic. This came about by exemplary leadership in many sectors to find solutions to seemingly unfathomable problems. They innovated quickly, responded to issues as they occurred and remained flexible to a rapidly changing environment. The objective of the conference is to bring these leaders together to learn from the last six months and reflect on how our leaders from across sectors may collaborate to chart our road to recovery for the coming months and years ahead. We want to conclude our conference with imperative public policy implications which our UCD Leadership in Healthcare Network can advance for our future."

The Conference was co-chaired by Professor Gerardine Doyle, Director, UCD Smurfit School and Professor Mary Horgan, President, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland; along with co-founders of the UCD Leadership in Healthcare Network,

UCD Executive MBA Alumni Dr Knut Moe, GP; and Sinead Ryan, Pharmacist. Prof. Doyle, Dr Moe and Ms Ryan identified the potential for a UCD Smurfit School graduate network from across the healthcare sector and established the UCD Leadership in Healthcare Network in January of this year to facilitate collaboration and knowledge sharing between professionals with an interest in both healthcare and leadership. This network aims to join the extensive networks and alumni in UCD's business, medicine and healthcare faculties, to develop and enhance meaningful solutions to society's most pressing challenges.



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

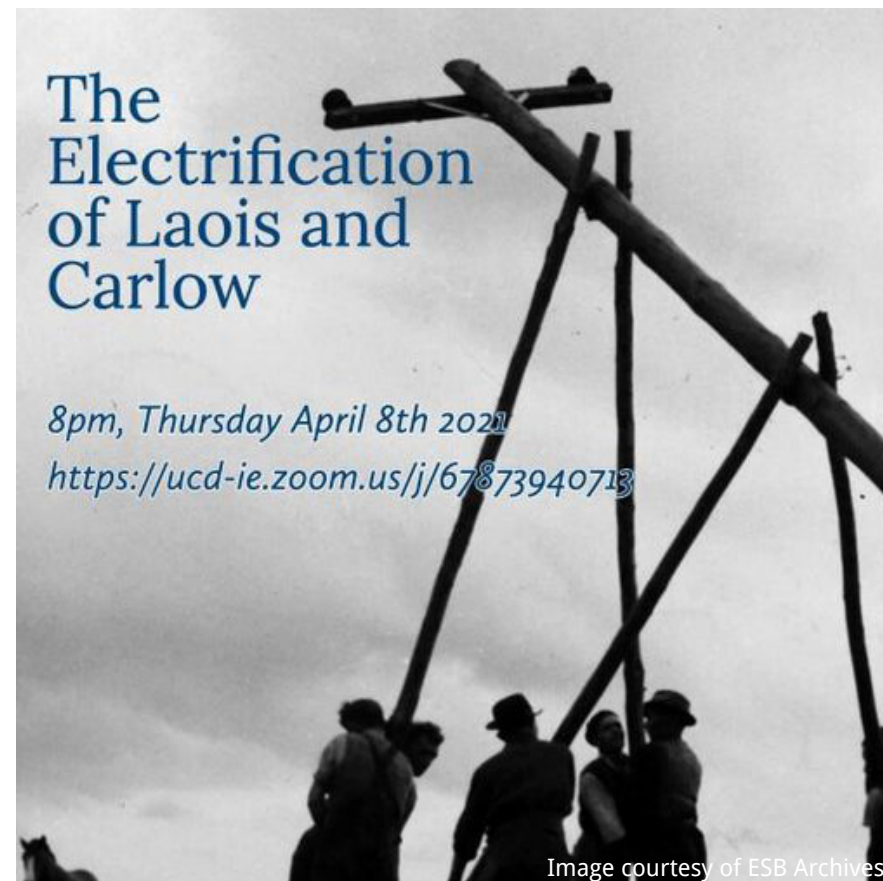


17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



# College of Business, Centre for Distance Learning - Ger Dooley

## Online History Lectures to Historical Societies around Ireland



### Continuation of series of online talks on matters of historical interest to local historical societies around Ireland.

When the COVID19 Pandemic put a stop to social activities in March 2020, the meetings of local historical societies around Ireland came to an abrupt end. Last year, Ger Dooley, College of Business, lead a series of talks for the Laois Historical Society on Zoom. With further restrictions imposed at the start of 2021, Ger began a new series of Zoom lectures for the Society, as well as others in Tipperary, and Carlow.

The highlight of this year's series was on Ger's research into the social impact of rural electrification in the midlands in the 1950s which drew large crowds from far and near under the auspices of the Laois Historical Society and the Carlow Archaeological and Heritage Society. A recording can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M5IUSG4xqBM>

Submitted by Ger Dooley





# UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular & Biomedical Research

## The Patient Voice in Cancer Research

**Cancer patients and researchers work together to improve research outcomes for patients and their families.**

The Patient Voice in Cancer Research (PVCr) is the Ireland-wide network of cancer survivors, family members, carers and cancer researchers hosted at the UCD Conway Institute. PVCr aims to bring people with a lived experience of cancer together into a mutual dialogue with cancer researchers, with the intent and focused PVCr vision to make research more relevant and impactful for cancer patients. PVCr is made up of over 200 patients, carers, researchers and representatives from cancer charities across the island of Ireland.

This year PVCr's activities were almost all online. On the 24th of November 2020 we ran a virtual Dragon's Den event. At our Dragon's Den events,



**'Separating cancer facts from fiction; what patients should look out for'**

**28 July 2021, 6pm**  
Via Zoom  
Register on Eventbrite – Search 'Patient Voice in Cancer Research'

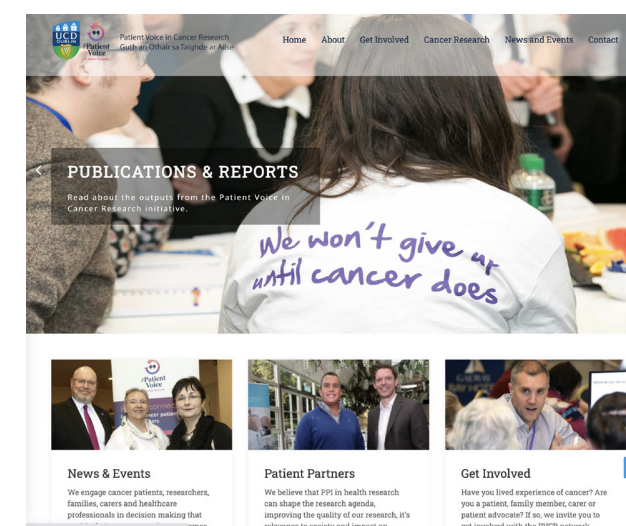
Dr Amanda Drury, UCD | Dr David Robert Grimes, DCU | Kay McKeon, Facilitator & Patient Advocate

**The Patient Voice in Cancer Research**

researchers present a research challenge to a panel of patients, who then give feedback based on their lived and therefore expert experiences. In November, two researchers from UCD, Dr Stephen Thorpe, UCD School of Medicine & UCD Conway Institute and Ross Nelson, Research Assistant, Dr Antoinette Perry group, UCD School of Biology & Environmental Science and UCD Conway Institute, alongside Dr Ananya Gupta, School of Medicine, NUI Galway, presented their research projects on personalised drug screening for pancreatic cancer, a new method to

*The Patient Voice in Cancer Research aims to bring people with a lived experience of cancer together into a mutual dialogue with cancer researchers.*

diagnose prostate cancer, and a device to detect neutrophilia. Thirty-one patients from across Ireland gave feedback on research plans. Six months after these discussions, each researcher wrote to the patients with an update on progress and to explain the impact of their conversation.



In December 2020 given that we could not meet as a community in person, PVCr launched a series of online Fireside Chats. These were conversations with two cancer researchers facilitated by a cancer patient, on a topic suggested by our community of patients and carers. Researchers from across Ireland joined us at eight Fireside Chats from December 2020 to September 2021 to answer patients' questions on topics including diet and nutrition in cancer recovery, mindfulness for patients and carers, and disinformation and misinformation in cancer.



The insightful conversations from Fireside Chat events are available to more cancer patients and interested members of the public in a podcast series available on streaming platforms and the new PVCr website <https://www.ucd.ie/patientvoicecancer/>. This website also has wonderful stories from cancer patients and researchers reflecting on their interactions. We are so grateful to everyone who has given their time this year to help the Patient Voice in Cancer Research network to make cancer research more relevant and useful for patients and their families.

Submitted by Síle Lane







# UCD Energy Institute

## Reducing climate anxiety among school children

*This project aims to improve climate education to make our school children more resilient.*



**A majority of children suffer from climate anxiety. This project aims to improve climate education to make our school children more resilient.**

Driven by deep concerns about the impact of climate change on the world and their lives, many children joined Greta Thunberg's #FridaysForFuture movement to demand action to stop climate change. Studies show that an alarmingly high

percentage of children suffer from climate anxiety, which is psychological distress caused by concerns about climate change. Stress early in life can impair children's ability to regulate emotions, and increases the risk of mental health problems later in life. This research project is designed to show how children cope with climate change anxiety and how climate change education can facilitate children's resilience to climate anxiety.

For this project, we visited primary schools across Ireland and brought climate change, science and

research to the classrooms. School children were asked to sketch what climate change meant for them, and how thought climate change could be stopped. As there was another global crisis unfolding during the project – the Covid-19 pandemic – we learned valuable lessons about how children coped with Covid-19 and incorporated this into recommendations to improve climate change education.

This project runs across the College of Business, Irish Centre for Applied Geoscience and the Energy

Institute, and was conducted in collaboration with the School of Botany, Trinity College Dublin.





## Live traffic counting by citizens – led by Associate Prof Francesco Pilla

The WeCount project provides local communities in the Greater Dublin area with the tools to measure traffic in their neighbourhoods using traffic counting sensors installed on participants' windows that count cars, trucks, bicycles, and pedestrians on local streets.



WeCount is an EU Citizen Scientist initiative that enables citizens to initiate a policy-making process with fully automated measurement data in the field of mobility and air quality. It is being run in five European cities: Madrid, Barcelona, Ljubljana, Leuven and Dublin, and Associate Prof Francesco Pilla of UCD Energy Institute is coordinating the Irish part of the project.

The WeCount project provides local communities in the Greater Dublin area with the tools to measure traffic in their neighbourhoods using traffic counting sensors installed on participants' windows that count cars, trucks, bicycles, and pedestrians on local streets.



Traffic is at the core of a variety of societal problems ranging from road safety, air, noise, and light pollution, to public health risks, to the liveability of our communities. However, obtaining objective traffic counts can be difficult because local authorities usually only have the resources to monitor a limited number of roads. Therefore, the WeCount project has the opportunity to greatly improve data available on traffic in Greater Dublin – with the help of local citizens!

UCD is organising the WeCount project in Dublin and has been facilitating workshops where local communities can discuss their concerns around traffic in their neighbourhoods and can learn more about how to analyse traffic data. In addition a limited number of citizen science environmental sensors to monitor air and noise pollution have been installed in strategic locations. This data supplements the traffic data to establish the pathway from sources to local pollution problems.

Submitted by Mary Doorly

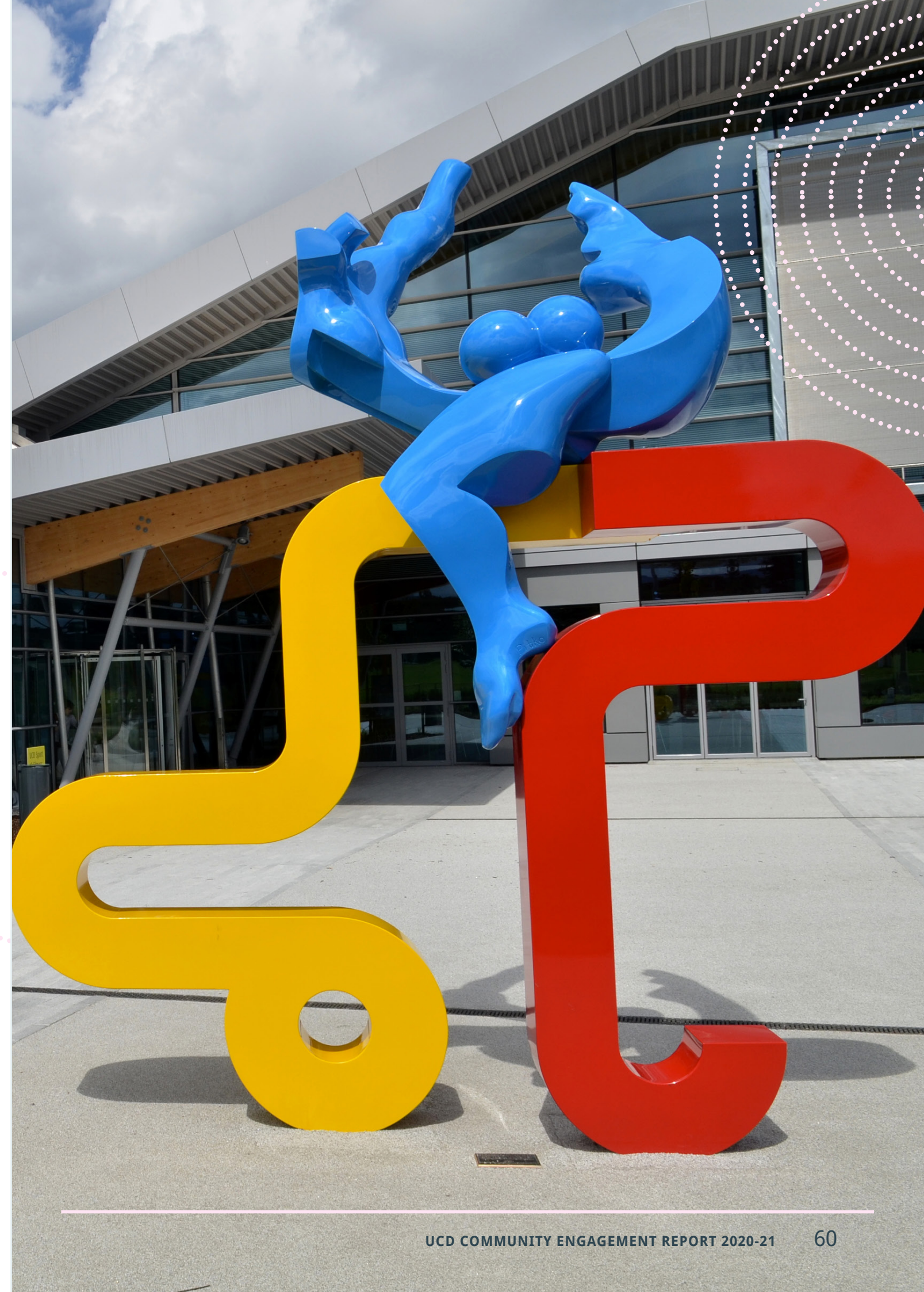
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



13 CLIMATE ACTION





# UCD Explore

## UCD in the Community

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the UCD Explore team were put under pressure to continue to deliver impactful STEM content to disadvantaged children.

We had just begun our programme when the initial lockdown began and although we had a couple of classes join us in the Kilty Outreach suite, the rest were cancelled. As scientists we also look to find solutions to challenges and began working on how best to serve our community of schools and participants. Without the support of our respective centres, Discovery, Insight, the School of Physics, the School of Chemistry and of course UCD Science none of our work would have been possible and for this we are extremely grateful.

### Outreach – Home School Hub

As lockdown and the school closures progressed it became increasingly apparent that we would not be able to have children visit UCD. The team began looking for alternative options to provide online content for parents and teachers in particular. It was at this stage that we approached RTÉ about the upcoming show, Home School Hub. The UCD Explore team joined the production and were featured weekly for the duration of the lockdown. We also worked with other partners through our SFI connections to get other STEM content on the show. The show itself was an overwhelming success and the RTÉ Learn ([www.rte.ie/learn](http://www.rte.ie/learn)) website that featured our content was getting in excess of 1 million views a month. The "Hub Lab" area has become a permanent feature of the website and we are working with them to create more YouTube content in the future.



### Podcasts

As part of this project the team produced the "Let's Dive in" podcast, again in partnership with RTÉ.

Due to the lockdown and school closures we moved our recording sessions online using Zoom and also called several children in to be part of the discussion. This process proved very effective and ensured the delivery of the podcast and also facilitated the production of a second maths based series called "Maths Matters", again with RTÉ.



*The UCD Explore team continued to deliver impactful STEM content to socio-economically disadvantaged children.*

### Postgraduate training

Training for new facilitators and postgraduate students was also hit with lockdown. Lorna Byrne, Lab Coordinator and Phil Smyth worked with Prof. Tony Keene from UCD Chemistry to ensure that we still trained our target number of students in communications and outreach. Workshops and group-work were carried out online through Zoom with each student presenting and producing an experiment lesson plan to be used in the lab once it reopened.



### Women+ in STEM Society

We continued our partnership with the UCD Women+ in STEM Society, meeting virtually with the society's outreach officers Adesola Ojomo-Amaka and Kate Moore to create and develop a suite of lesson plans that can be used when face-to-face activities resume.

### UCD Explore Video Content

With budget for travel and consumables still available we spoke with Cathy Foley in SFI to repurpose these funds to produce video content based on the questions asked in the lab. As Phil had been the only one featured from the team on the Home School Hub, we were all keen to present different faces as part of this production. The team worked with John Hyland from RealOne Media to produce six videos presented by Aoibhéann, Phil and a UCD Chemistry student, Shekemi Denuga. Three of these videos were broadcast as part of the UCD Virtual Festival and are featured on our project website. We are also sending them to teachers as a resource for them to use in class.

Submitted by Lorna Byrne, UCD Explore





# UCD Global

## UCD Alumni Buddy Programme



Christmas Lights Walk

**The UCD Alumni Buddy programme, a collaboration between UCD Alumni Relations and UCD Global, brings together local alumni and graduate international students to help ease their transition to life in Ireland. It adapted during the pandemic to provide essential virtual support!**

Since 2017, the Programme has been linking incoming international students with local UCD Alumni.

It has enhanced the student experience significantly by:

- providing friendly and practical support to students, especially on their arrival in Ireland
- helping them integrate into UCD and local communities, and become familiar with UCD, Dublin, Ireland and Irish culture
- facilitating intercultural exchanges between students and alumni

Alumni Buddy Volunteers make a positive difference to the experience of international students, by answering questions about UCD and life in Ireland, to help them navigate their way after arriving here. Students value the support from Alumni Buddies, both local and international, including basic orientation to the UCD campus and Dublin, and information on how to access relevant public services such as health and transportation.

Benefits of the programme, frequently reported by students, include networking opportunities,

orientation-support on arrival, general and practical advice, getting-to-know Dublin and adjacent areas, professional mentoring, friendship and learning about Irish culture and traditions. On several occasions, Alumni Buddies have gone far beyond what was expected e.g. by inviting students to their homes for a family dinner, including on Christmas Day.

One-to-one matching did not take place this year, due to public health risks. Instead, the programme enabled students and alumni to make connections by participating in online events. Alumni Buddies continued to give guidance to students throughout the Covid-19 restrictions. Buddies demonstrated great enthusiasm and adaptability by supporting students virtually, including via the UCD Alumni Network. Online activities on Irish culture, Christmas and Easter were insightful for students. They also held Buddy Support Hour sessions for students to ask questions and seek advice.

A limited number of outdoor walks, when feasible within public health guidelines, also gave students the opportunity to network and explore Dublin.

*Alumni Buddy Volunteers make a positive difference to the experience of international students*

*“Even during Corona, she drove to my house to hand me over the masks.”*

*“It was an amazing opportunity to expand my network - not only with previous UCD students, of different ages and backgrounds, but also with current international students. I really enjoyed the support of the Buddies and it was great to have this cultural exchange. If you are a new Graduate student, I recommend that you take part in this programme!”*

Alumni Buddies have also reported the benefits of the programme, such as the two-way cultural exchange. It is always encouraging to see student participants making the transition to become Alumni Buddies, after they have graduated.

Submitted by Colin Tannam



**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS





# UCD Horticulture, School of Agriculture and Food Science

## Apple Orchard at UCD Rosemount Environmental Research Station



**UCD orchard includes the Lamb-Clarke Irish Heritage Apple Collection, comprising 75 varieties of heritage culinary, dessert and cider apples of Irish origin. These are an important genetic and cultural resource, used in teaching, research and outreach activities.**

The UCD Irish Heritage Apple Collection has national importance for preserving the invaluable genetic resources held within our native varieties. Recent research work confirmed the identification of heritage Irish varieties using molecular characterisation of individual trees. Oldest heritage apple varieties include Brown Crofton (1802), Irish Peach (1812), Ecklinville Seedling (1820) and Ard Cairn Russet (1820). Pollination research also takes place in the orchard.

The orchard contains two modern culinary varieties and seventeen modern dessert varieties in addition to the heritage varieties. All apples are grown on M9 dwarfing rootstocks to keep them at two metres in height and trained using the Slender Spindle system, keeping the trees in a pyramid shape to allow light and air penetration.



**Clockwise from above:** David Brogan, Technical Officer, with apple press; Dr Caroline Elliott Kingston, Head of Horticulture, labelling apple trees following genetic testing to confirm cultivar identity; Falling Fruit Ireland gleaning UCD orchard for charity; Apple blossom.

*Gleaning of leftover apples following harvest by Falling Fruit Ireland, who distribute them to local charities.*





Students creating apple pulp for juicing



Students bottling apple juice



Harvested apples in orchard

Teaching activities include practicals for BAgSc Horticulture and MSc Horticulture students on apple identification, assessing optimum harvesting time, juicing, tree grafting, pruning and pest control. Beekeeping is also taught in the orchard.

Outreach activities include public tours of the orchard, juicing for student societies, including UCD

Hort Soc whose members are from every degree programme in UCD (everyone is welcome), and gleaning of leftover apples following harvest by Falling Fruit Ireland, who distribute them to local charities.

Submitted by Dr Caroline Elliott-Kingston

*These are an important genetic and cultural resource, used in teaching, research and outreach activities.*

**3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



**4** QUALITY EDUCATION



**5** GENDER EQUALITY



**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



**12** RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



**15** LIFE ON LAND





# UCD in the Community

## Student Volunteering



**Student volunteers are a major force underpinning Irish higher education institutions' (HEIs) civic role and driving Ireland's agenda to create an island of inclusion and engagement. The current COVID-19 health crisis has shone a light on the hands-on approach of our UCD student volunteers, addressing real-world problems through volunteering.**

During the height of the pandemic, hundreds of UCD students were at the frontline, applying their skills as volunteer paramedics, supporting vulnerable older people, carrying out peer to-peer mentorship, online school support programmes and homework clubs, keeping the most vulnerable members of our society in school and enabling them to transition to further and higher education. Their volunteer activities have helped raise essential funds, with a profound impact on supporting local community services to function. Our students' pro-action has enhanced their personal resilience, work-ready skills and their sense of well-being and purpose in society.

UCD in the Community are proud to sit on the National Student Volunteering Working Group under Campus Engage in the Irish Universities Association (IUA). As part of that working group, we manage the backend of the [StudentVolunteer.ie](https://www.studentvolunteer.ie) platform.



StudentVolunteer.ie is a free interactive online platform for higher education (HE) students, HEIs and community organisations. This management system tracks, records, and reports on HE student volunteering and learning through reflection. It enables Clubs, Societies, volunteer initiatives, and community organisations both on and off-campus to promote their volunteer opportunities to HE students in one or all partner HEIs, accept or reject student applications and approve and record volunteer hours. Students can apply and record their volunteer hours and volunteer experience and HEI administrators can record and report on their student's volunteering. It is a bespoke, state-of-the-platform, the first of its kind for student volunteering anywhere in the world.

Due to the pandemic, UCD in the Community had to move their in-person lecture addresses online, but were delighted to be able to present to hundreds of new and returning students across the university about getting involved in their community through volunteering. At present, there are over 2,000 UCD students registered on the platform, where they have the opportunity to sign up to a wide range of volunteering opportunities.

The National Student Volunteering Working Group also ran two volunteering seminars for students 'Volunteering in the New Academic Year' and 'Get Ready for a Lifetime of Volunteering'. These webinars were really well attended by students across the country and showcased some of the wonderful volunteering that is happening in our HEIs.

*Our students' pro-action has enhanced their personal resilience, work-ready skills and their sense of well-being and purpose in society.*





# Hope Fest

**Hope Fest is an annual wellness and music event for those experiencing homelessness in Dublin, run by students and staff from UCD, in collaboration with the Dublin Lions Club and Dublin Simon Community.**

This event grew out of many conversations around how the university could support the homeless community in a real and meaningful way, while providing an opportunity for staff and student volunteers to engage with the wider community in a mutually beneficial way. Through consultation with the Dublin Lions Club and various homelessness organisations, it was identified that while there are many events around Christmas for those experiencing homelessness, there were no events taking place during the summer period, and isolation and loneliness for those experiencing homeless is a yearlong issue.

The inaugural summer event took place outdoors in the Iveagh Gardens (with kind support from the OPW) on Saturday May 26th 2018. The event ran again on May 18th 2019, under the new name of Hope Fest, and was attended by over 270 guests experiencing homelessness.

*"Hope Fest is one of those dates in the calendar that all of us in Dublin Simon really look forward to. It's one of those events that our clients thoroughly enjoy, it gives them a great sense of involvement, a great sense of community, and most importantly a great sense of hope."*

James Phelan - Dublin Simon Community



Dublin Simon clients and staff enjoying Hope Fest



Dublin Simon clients taking part in mindful colouring by Paula McGloin

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Hope Fest could not be held in the Iveagh Gardens in May 2020. We adapted and organised it remotely and it was held on 10 October 2020, World Homeless Day, in 16 Dublin Simon Community services in three counties. Over 350 Dublin Simon clients were provided with hot food, wellness activities and a video with messages of hope and live music from Gavin James, Lisa Hannigan, the UCD Choral Scholars, Keith Duffy (Boyzone) and more.



As the community sector have suffered huge financial losses due to the pandemic, a link was included to a JustGiving page for members of the UCD community streaming the '[Hope Fest @ Home](#)' video, where they could donate to the Dublin Simon Community.

A hugely successful part of this year's Hope Fest was the inclusion of a specially commissioned 'Hope' illustration by illustrator Paula McGloin that was printed to A0 and was coloured in by the clients on the day, as a collaborative mindfulness group activity. The art works are now displayed in each service as a reminder of the event. The event was a huge success, with one client commenting that Hope Fest is what they "need to believe in to keep them ticking".



Hope Fest was selected as a finalist in the UK and Ireland's Green Gown Awards 2020, under the 'Benefitting Society' category.



**3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

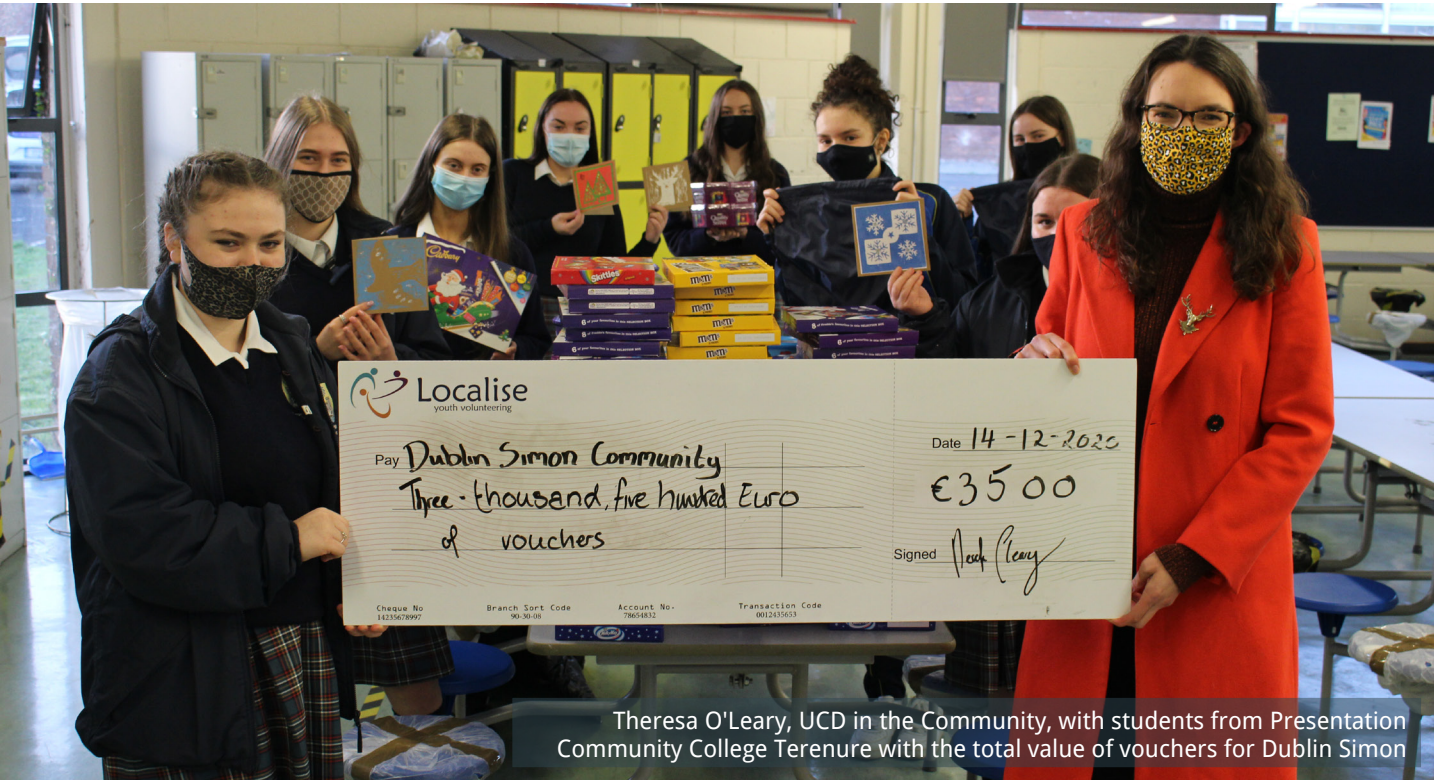


**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS





# Dublin Simon Voucher Appeal



Theresa O'Leary, UCD in the Community, with students from Presentation Community College Terenure with the total value of vouchers for Dublin Simon

Every year, UCD, in collaboration with Localise and Presentation Community College Terenure, organise a care package appeal for the rough sleepers of Dublin Simon Community.

The TY students in Terenure encourage the UCD community to get involved and support their appeal to collect essential items for those experiencing homelessness, specifically the rough

sleepers of Dublin City Centre and surrounding areas. As part of this Localise volunteering programme, the TY students learn about the needs of those experiencing homelessness and they plan and execute a community project that has a real and meaningful impact. This collaboration has been running since 2017 and has seen thousands of euros worth of essential items being donated to the Dublin Simon Community.



In 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the usual care package appeal was not possible. The wonderful Transition Year students in Terenure Presentation Community College, undertaking their Localise volunteering programme, still wanted to do something to help. Taking the lead from the rough sleepers team of Dublin Simon

*This collaboration has been running since 2017 and has seen thousands of euros worth of essential items being donated to the Dublin Simon Community.*



Handmade cards for the Dublin Simon rough sleepers

Community, the suggestion was that people could donate vouchers and the rough sleeper team would distribute the vouchers along with cards, selection boxes and drawstring bags to their clients in the run up to Christmas. The response from the UCD community and the staff and students of Presentation Community College was astonishing, with over €3,500 worth of vouchers being donated to the Dublin Simon Community rough sleepers team.



*The response from the UCD community and the staff and students of Presentation Community College was astonishing*



TY students from Presentation Community College Terenure



# Mindfulness in the Community

In the time between January and August 2021, UCD in the Community ran two 'Introduction to Mindfulness' courses.

One was offered to women members of the university staff and the other was open to the wider UCD community of both staff and alumni. Both courses ran for five weeks with weekly on-line sessions of 1.5 hours and participants were encouraged to practice mindfulness techniques daily between sessions. The course was delivered by Aoife Fitzgerald who is currently completing her Masters in Mindfulness-Based Interventions in the School of Psychology, UCD.

"Courses like these would typically be delivered in person in a carefully chosen room/space but with the current restrictions in place around COVID, the courses needed to be delivered on-line. I entered the process with trepidation, conscious of the many reasons why it would be preferable to be together in person, but was soon pleasantly surprised by the level of



connection and learning possible, even online.

The participation, commitment and enthusiasm of participants was both vital and enriching, and a real sense of shared humanity and growth was evident from sustained high attendance as well as positive feedback both during and after the courses. In response to this feedback, two full Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) courses are being offered to UCD staff in the next academic year. The level of interest in the MBSR courses has already far exceeded expectations, with both courses filled immediately after advertising. Further courses will be offered in the future and will be advertised in the staff e-zine.

I look forward to lots more mindfulness in the years ahead." - Aoife Fitzgerald



## UCD Staff Sing Song

The first ever UCD Sing-Song took place online on Thursday, 22 April at 4.30pm. Featuring our musically talented UCD colleagues from across the university, introduced by MC extraordinaire Rory Breathnach, UCD School of Veterinary Medicine.

We wanted to bring the UCD community together, while staying apart, with an old fashioned sing-song, all from the comfort of your own home! A huge thank you to all our singers who contributed, Cormac Taylor, Niall Dennehy, Joei Walsh, Shane Bergin, Declan Fahie and Gerard Fealy, and a special thank you to our host Rory Breathnach.

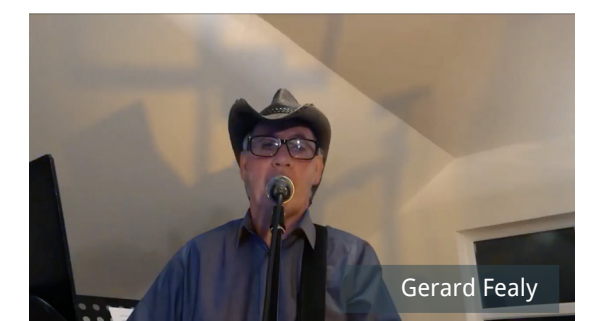
## 'Volunteer Engagers' Coffee Morning

UCD in the Community and UCD Alumni hosted their first 'Volunteer Engagers' coffee morning in July 2021. The virtual coffee morning was open to anyone in the university who engages volunteers (students, alumni, or staff) in whatever capacity, providing them with an informal virtual meet-up to connect with each other, to share stories, and to learn about ways volunteers give back to our community.

Submitted by Theresa O'Leary, UCD in the Community



*The objective of UCD in the Community is to connect UCD staff and students with the wider community for mutual benefit.*





# UCD Institute for Discovery

## Zoom for Thought Series



UCD Institute for Discovery

**UCD Discovery's weekly, 15-minute micro-chat series with a strong interdisciplinary focus began in April 2020 and continues apace. Open to the public, well attended and hosted by UCD Discovery Director Patricia Maguire, it has grown enormously in popularity, reach and impact over the past year.**

During the past year UCD Discovery has continued to engage with our community via [Zoom for Thought](#). The public appetite has continued for this quick but informative "tea-break" from the stresses of life; an opportunity to turn down the noise and tune into the experts. Our diverse guests are world class and attract a growing audience as we endeavour to tailor talk titles to the challenging times. From September 2020 to August 2021 we welcomed no fewer than 33 Zoom for Thought guests, from fields as diverse as cybersecurity, behavioural science, nutrition, green investment, statistics and the humanities. The word count limit prevents us from mentioning them all; instead we have handpicked guests whose work demonstrates the wide spectrum of subjects tackled on the series.

Muthoni Masinde, Professor of Computer Science and Founder and CEO of ITIKI, a drought prediction app, spoke of how the app is the fruit of interdisciplinary labour; a blend of indigenous social science, humanities, design science and climate science.



Dr Conor Heneghan, Director of Research Algorithms at Fitbit, spoke to us from California after Fitbit received FDA and EU clearance to launch an electrocardiogram check on their latest smartwatch. "A 30-second sample from your smartwatch can detect a condition called atrial fibrillation which is the most common cardiac arrhythmia," said Dr Heneghan, adding that this tracker is 99% accurate.

As the Covid Tracker app made national headlines, we welcomed Rob Mooney, Deputy Head of Communications of NPHET Behavioural Change Subgroup, and a member of the Covid Tracker App Development Team. He discussed the role of social and behavioural research in strategic communications, saying: "Fundamentally a key tool in suppressing the virus is behavioural changing, and our role was to ensure that people have the tools to do that properly."

Dr Gerald C. (Jerry) Kane, Professor of Information Systems and Faculty Director of the Edmund H. Shea, Jr. Center for Entrepreneurship at Boston College's Carroll School of Management, spoke about his book, "The Technology Fallacy: How People are the Real Key to Digital Transformation." He said: "This whole idea that technology is the providence of the young, we have zero evidence for that."



Muthoni Masindi



Conor Heneghan



Rob Mooney

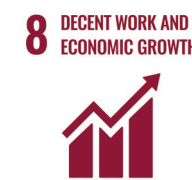
*Our diverse guests are world class and attract a growing audience as we endeavour to tailor talk titles to the challenging times.*

Anne Sheehan, Director, Vodafone Business UK, spoke about "Technology for good: supporting the way we connect, work, innovate and live."

Cathriona Hallahan, Managing Director of Microsoft Ireland, spoke about "Digital Transformation in a Post COVID-19 World".

Keith Tuffley, Global Co-Head of the Sustainability & Corporate Transitions group at Citi, spoke about "Finance as a Force for Energy Transition".

*UCD Discovery has continued to engage with our community via Zoom for Thought.*





# Rising Stars

**Our Rising Stars series, begun in early 2020 and for which we interview and champion early-stage academics and increase their profiles in the community, has grown significantly in reach and impact over the past year.**

In UCD Discovery we understand the challenges for young academics to build their profiles and have their work reach a wider audience and perhaps pique the interest of potential funders. This is why we began our Rising Stars series, for which we pinpoint and promote exceptional young academics and researchers who work in an interdisciplinary field. Along with interviewing them for the Rising Stars section of our website, we share their stories across our social media channels so their achievements are noted and celebrated within their own academic communities and more widely among the general public.

Between September 2020 and August 2021 we featured 11 Rising Stars:

- Dr Dawn Walsh is an Assistant Professor in the School of Politics and International Relations and Director of the Institute for British-Irish Studies at University College Dublin. She spoke about Brexit, Covid-19 and Northern Ireland.
- We spoke to Dr Roland Gjoni as the tense presidential count was underway. He described the atmosphere as “bordering on a coup” - and within days his words would come to pass as the White House was stormed by Trump supporters.
- Computer scientist Dr Vivek Nallur said that while we might not ever be able to create a completely ethical machine, perhaps we will “end up with a satisfactory one”.
- Dr Danielle Petherbridge of UCD School of Philosophy argued in favour of a more tailored approach to dementia care.

- Dr Thomas Conlon of UCD School of Business spoke about the future of fintech in Ireland and the possibility of Central Bank-issued cryptocurrency.
- Dr Aoife de Brun, who herself was a volunteer contact tracer in the early days of the pandemic, now researches the psychological toll of such work.
- Dr Katie Mishler’s research on Gothic Dublin was picked up by the Irish Daily Mail newspaper following our Rising Stars story.
- Dr Orla Kelly spoke about the impact of climate change on education and Dr Flavia Santos discussed her new research group exploring music and maths cognition.
- Dr Tara Dirilgen spoke about the importance of maintaining soil biodiversity.
- To mark Mental Health Awareness month, Dr Amanda Fitzgerald discussed her research in youth mental health.



**Top L:R Clockwise:**  
Dr Katie Mishler; Dr Orla Kelly; Dr Tara Dirilgen; Dr Vivek Nallur.





# Stories of Discovery

**Our Stories of Discovery series is another way in which we keep in touch with - and endeavour to add value to - our community. It is a news section on our website taking a closer look at some of the interesting happenings across campus.**

Between August 2020 and September 2021, we wrote 18 [Stories of Discovery](#), covering a spectrum of events that took place in UCD, from launches to awards ceremonies and more. We publicise these Stories of Discovery via our social media platforms.

We wrote about some of the work undertaken at UCD Discovery - for example, our support of the Intel Laser harp, launched during the UCD festival in June and our new membership of the prestigious UBIAS international network. Also our support of the Dublin Climate Dialogues (May 19th-20th) for which our Director Prof Patricia Maguire was a member of the Steering Committee and also hosted a fireside chat with Mary Quaney, Group Chief Executive Officer of Mainstream Renewable Power. In March we spread the news that the AI\_PREMie project, co-led by Patricia Maguire, had won the NovaUCD Invention of the Year.



Along with promoting the work we do at UCD Discovery, we also highlight the endeavours of our colleagues right across campus. We supported the launch of the UCD Centre for Space Research (C-Space) and also the launch of C-Quest, UCD's new research centre for quantum engineering, science and technology.

*Along with promoting the work we do at UCD Discovery, we also highlight the endeavours of our colleagues right across campus.*

We wrote a story encouraging applications from primary school children to the Irish Young Philosopher Award and inaugural International Award. We targeted that same cohort during Science Week by writing about the podcast Let's Dive In! for which host Phil Smyth was accepting questions from children. We interviewed top guidance counsellor Brian Mooney about how Leaving Cert students should follow their passions rather than focusing on points when choosing subjects to study at Third Level. We interviewed Dr Shane Bergin about his interdisciplinary initiative Quavers to Quadratics and the benefits of blending science and music.

We also explored some of the interesting research underway by our UCD colleagues. We spoke to Dr Carla Kayanan of UCD School of Geography about her project Housing in the Tech City: Challenges for housing provision and addressing homelessness. And computer scientist Gianluca Pollastri told us about the pitfalls to avoid when using machine learning in the field of biology.



Submitted by Patrice Harrington





# UCD Institute of Food and Health

## UCD Institute of Food and Health Engagement with Special Olympics

**In 2019, Special Olympics became one of UCD's Charities of Choice and since then colleagues and students from across the university have been linking in with the Special Olympics for engagement activities, fundraising and collaboration.**

Special Olympics invited a group from the Institute of Food and Health to engage with their members through two online events on Saturday May 22 and Monday May 31, 2021. The first event was the Athlete Leadership Regional Forum where athletes were brought together in an online workshop-format to learn and develop new skills. Following some initial discussions with the Special Olympics team we identified certain aspects of healthy eating that were of particular interest, including portion control, healthy snacks, eating on the move, understanding balance, and boredom eating. The athlete leaders already had an impressive level of nutrition and food related knowledge and therefore the workshop was tailored to their needs of applying that knowledge in practice.

The second event was an online webinar with the parents and coaches of the athletes which delivered similar content but expanded on certain aspects including weight management and goal setting, followed by a question and answer session. Both events were well received by the participants; the athletes themselves engaged so positively with the event that the Institute of Food and Health team benefitted equally!

The event was designed and delivered by Dr Celine Murrin, Dr Sarah Browne, Nicola Dervan from the School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sport Science, with the support of three of the MSc Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics students Senan McNulty, Sinead O'Donovan and Becky Lyons.

Following the success of the events we are in discussions with Special Olympics on how to develop more activities with staff and expand to include more engagement with undergraduate students for the forthcoming academic year.

Submitted by Dr Celine Murrin & Dr Sarah Browne



**Special  
Olympics  
Ireland**

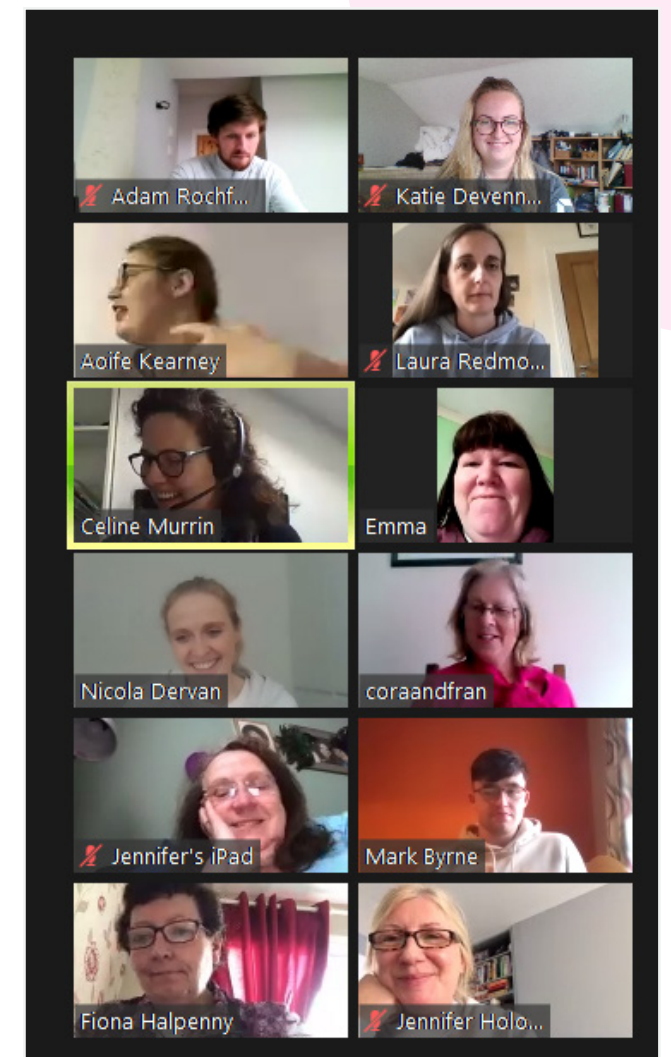
*"I really enjoyed the UCD workshop, I learned loads and can't wait to use the tips in my everyday"*

"Institute of Food and Health came on board to create a workshop for our Athlete Leadership Regional Forum 2021. The aim of the Forum is to give athletes the opportunity to explore and learn new skills outside of sport. We invited the UCD team on to a call with some of our Athlete Leaders to discuss what they wanted to see covered in the workshop. As a result, UCD developed a workshop around healthy snacks, portion control and boredom eating to name a few. The workshops were a great success on the day receiving great feedback from both our athletes and volunteers.

From this success, we thought it would be best to offer a webinar for our coaches, volunteers and parents. This content reflected what the athletes had been taught but included some other topics such as goal setting and weight management. The webinar was led by Dr Celine Murrin and Dr Sarah Browne on the night, followed by a question-and-answer session. Again, we received brilliant feedback from the attendants, and we hope this is something we can look at doing again in the future.

We would like to say a massive thank you to Dr Celine Murrin, Dr Sarah Browne, Nicola Dervan from the School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sport Science who developed and delivered two great sessions for us this year. We look forward to seeing what else we can work on with UCD Institute of Food and Health in the coming year."

Submitted by Katie Devenney,  
Special Olympics Eastern Region





THE PEOPLE'S HISTORY

# DO YOU HAVE A STORY?

THE NATIONAL FOLKLORE COLLECTION (NFC) IS A UNIQUE REPOSITORY WHICH SEEKS TO DOCUMENT THE COLLECTIVE MEMORY OF PEOPLE IN IRELAND, AND COMPRISES AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF IRELAND'S CULTURAL HERITAGE. SITUATED IN UCD, AND UNDER THE OVERALL ADMINISTRATION OF UCD LIBRARY, THE NFC ACTIVELY SEEKS OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE WITH COMMUNITIES AND GROUPS TO RECORD AND PRESERVE ACCOUNTS OF THEIR MATERIAL CULTURE AND ORAL HISTORIES.

Dún Laoghaire c.1890

UCD National Folklore Collection (NFC) is collaborating with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council on an exciting oral history project entitled *The People's History: 'Do you have a story to tell?'*, launched in June 2021.

This project seeks to document the county's intangible cultural heritage\* by interviewing local people from all walks of life. It will contribute significantly to a greater understanding and appreciation of the character

of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown as it has grown and evolved in the past century or more. These recordings, which tell the stories of shopkeepers, traders, industrial and craft workers, fishermen, quarry men, train drivers, hotel keepers, domestics and hospital workers, and those that worked on the big estates in the borough; or stayed home - will be preserved in the National Folklore Collection.

The People's History project has set a target of 50 interviews recorded in 2021

(40 have been completed thus far), and a further 200 interviews will be recorded in 2022. The field work is being undertaken by Dr Deirdre Nuttall, a graduate of Irish folklore from UCD, and principal investigator on the Irish Protestant Folk Memory project. UCD is, of course, situated in the borough, and many of its staff and students reside in, or are natives of, the borough.

\*highlights commitment in DLR County Development Plan 2022-2028.

Blackrock Weaver 1980

THERE'S STILL TIME TO PRESERVE YOUR STORY, OR YOUR FAMILY'S STORY IN THIS COMMUNITY ARCHIVE, WHETHER YOU ARE A LOCAL, OR MOVED FROM THE AREA LONG AGO. PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH [PEOPLESISTORY@DLRCOCO.IE](mailto:PEOPLESISTORY@DLRCOCO.IE)

IRISH POETRY READING ARCHIVE

# CELEBRATING DIVERSITY IN THE COMMUNITY

POETRY PROVIDES its readers with insights into the individual and collective experience of a person's life, culture, language and worldview. It has a particular value in promoting multiculturalism, understanding of shared humanity, and a greater appreciation of human diversity.

Before the pandemic struck, planning discussions were underway to consider how to better represent non-national poets living in Ireland in the Archive. Hampered by social distancing, home working and travel restrictions we devised a plan to ask twelve poets living in

Ireland, and hailing from countries as far afield as Brazil, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Russia, to self-record four poems on a smartphone, and send them in to be curated and preserved in the Archive. In January 2022, as we emerge from the pandemic, they will come to UCD, to be filmed in the Library's Special Collections Reading room, to read four more poems.

Our poets in 2021 are Polina Cosgrave (Russia); Landa Wo (France); Viviana Fiorentino (Italy); Mimmie Malaba (Zimbabwe), Natasha Remoundou (Greece); Ayesha Emon (Pakistan);

Nithy Kasa (Democratic Republic of the Congo); Rafael Mendes (Brazil); Chandrika Narayan-Mohan (India); Csilla Toldy (Hungary); Sven Kretzschmar (Germany); and Christian Wethered (Germany).

Poetry can help transcend borders, and provide moments of contact among individuals living in diverse communities. The Irish Poetry Reading Archive, which is freely accessible from around the world, has achieved a broad range of high quality poetic voices representing the diversity of the poets in Ireland today.

"POETRY IS A WINDOW ONTO  
THE BREATH-TAKING DIVERSITY  
OF HUMANITY"

UNESCO DIRECTOR-GENERAL  
IRINA BOKOVA

THE IRISH POETRY READING ARCHIVE, BUILT UP OVER THE LAST 7 YEARS, HOLDS THE WORK OF OVER 150 POETS - INCLUDING WRITERS BORN IN IRELAND BUT RESIDENT ELSEWHERE AND ALSO THOSE NEWLY ARRIVED HERE. EACH OF THE POETS READS EIGHT POEMS, PROVIDES HANDWRITTEN MANUSCRIPTS, AND INSIGHTS INTO THEIR WORK. WITH OVER 250,000 VIEWS ON YOUTUBE THIS POPULAR ARCHIVE CELEBRATES AND PROFILES THE BEST OF THE POETS IN IRELAND.





# UCD Ocular Pharmacology and Genetics Group

## #OpenYourEyesToUM - Uveal Melanoma Awareness Campaign



**#OpenYourEyesToUM was a social media awareness and information campaign run by researchers in the UCD Ocular Pharmacology and Genetics Group (OPGG) during May 2021 to highlight uveal melanoma, a rare, poor prognosis eye cancer, and promote ongoing research on this disease.**

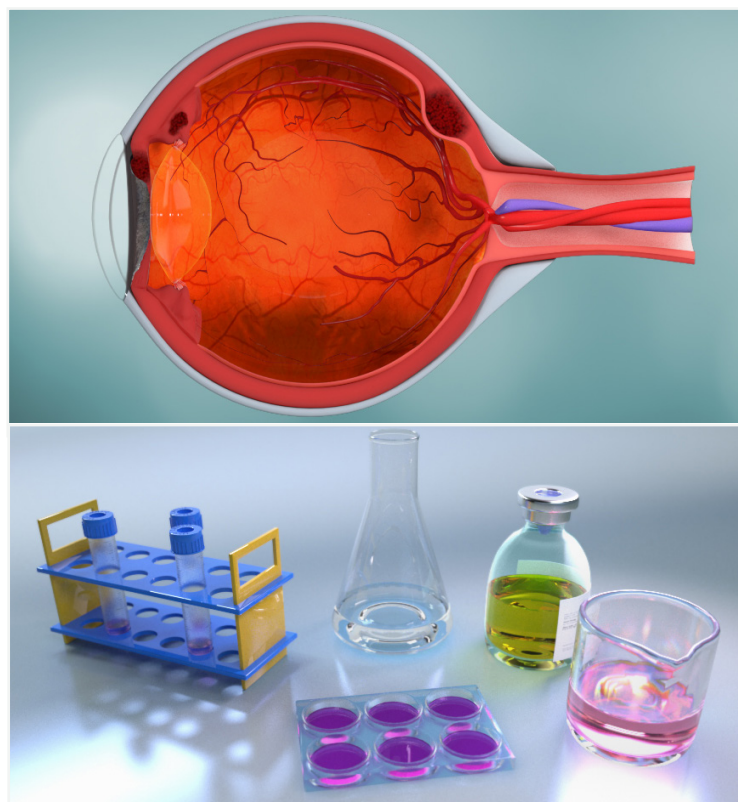
Uveal melanoma (UM) is a rare eye cancer and Ireland has one of the highest incidence rates worldwide. Unfortunately, UM spreads to the liver in 50% of patients and once this occurs, the outlook for patients is extremely poor. Ongoing research is critical to identify new therapeutic targets to prolong the lives of UM patients.

Our #OpenYourEyesToUM campaign ran in conjunction with Melanoma Awareness Month in May 2021. This campaign was spear-headed by researchers in OPGG, 3D-NEONET and CRYSTAL3. As active UM researchers, the goal of our month-long campaign was to raise awareness of this rare cancer to the wider public by harnessing the power of social media. This initiative was extremely collaborative, involving pharmacologists at ICON plc., clinicians from Irish hospitals, patient advocates from OcuMel Ireland, and charity partners from Breakthrough Cancer Research. Each stakeholder brought

unique aims and outlooks to the campaign.

In collaboration with ICON plc., we developed an accessible 5-minute UM animation video outlining all aspects of UM - from diagnosis to treatment. This video (<https://youtu.be/O4EvqKnFuqU>) has garnered >1K views on YouTube and >22K impressions on Twitter to date. Our informative and high-quality video is freely available, and we hope it proves valuable in educating patients and their families, researchers, clinicians, and members of the public about UM.

*Uveal melanoma (UM) is a rare eye cancer and Ireland has one of the highest incidence rates worldwide.*



Children Category



Adult Category



In addition, we ran a "Design Your Own Eyepatch Competition" to normalise the wearing of eyepatches by UM patients following treatment. The only rule was to have fun and submit eye-catching artistic designs! We received 50 creative submissions from adults and children internationally, all of which garnered huge interest on social media (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wT9PbXjXek0>).

Lastly, we ran questionnaire polls on social media relating to UM epidemiology, symptoms, and outcomes. Participants voted for the correct answers, with 286 votes and over 21K impressions on Twitter counted across all questions. After 24 hours, the correct answer with supporting information was provided in simple, easy to understand language, free from

scientific jargon. Our questionnaires promoted a natural dialogue about UM between the public and researchers.

This campaign allowed us to successfully raise awareness of UM globally using various social media platforms. We expanded our network by engaging with other UM research groups and patient advocates both nationally and internationally. We believe that the combined perspectives of researchers, patient advocates, clinicians, and charities, all of which underpinned this campaign, are vital in the fight against a rare, poor prognosis cancer such as UM.

Submitted by Dr Husvinee Sundaramurthi, Kayleigh Slater, Dr Yolanda Alvarez and Prof Breandán Kennedy

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING





# UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science

## Soapbox Science Dublin 2021

**On the 3rd of July, 2021 scientists from UCD and beyond took part in Soapbox Science to discuss their research with the public.**

Soapbox Science is an international initiative that has two aims; firstly to make science more accessible by bringing researchers working in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine (STEMM) to interact with the public and talk to those who may have never met a scientist before. Secondly, Soapbox Science showcases women and non-binary researchers to try and break down stereotypes around who a scientist is and to encourage everyone to participate in STEMM. For four hours on a Saturday afternoon, we live streamed our speakers, where scientists gave short talks about their work and answered questions about their research.

Talks ranged from using maths to save the bees since bees are really important crop pollinators (Dr. Sarah MacQueen, University College Dublin) and how antibiotics are a very precious tool that we must safeguard to keep bacteria from becoming 'superbugs' (Dr. Amalia Naranjo-Lucena, Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine). Speakers used props and a huge variety of ways to make their research interesting and relevant to the public, with a steady stream of people joining us online during the afternoon from all over the world from Ireland to Mexico.

Organised by Dr. Angela Feechan, Dr. Anthony Twamley, Dr. Saoirse Tracy, Dr. Tara Dirilgen, Dr. Anna Tiley, and Dr. Dara Stanley (School of

Agriculture and Food Science, UCD), the featured scientists came from UCD but also from TCD, RCSI, DAFM, and DCU, and the event was sponsored by the UCD Research Office seed funding scheme and UCD Earth Institute.

Submitted by Angela Feechan



*Soapbox Science showcases women and non-binary researchers to try and break down stereotypes around who a scientist is and to encourage everyone to participate in STEMM.*

*Speakers used props and a huge variety of ways to make their research interesting and relevant to the public.*



Speaker portraits of those taking part in Soapbox Science Dublin 2021





Baleskin Direct Provision Centre

# Amanda Kelly, UCD School of Archaeology

## Community Engagement Initiative Baleskin

“ Since 2017, I have provided weekly lectures on Irish culture, archaeology and history at the Direct Provision centre in Baleskin, Finglas, with talks running throughout Semester 1 when I am based in Dublin. The weekly lectures are supplemented by a monthly timetable of activities, including guided tours of the National Museum of Ireland, UCD's Centre for Experimental Archaeology and Material Culture (including some demonstrations), and the occasional longer-distance trip to UCD's excavations in Glendalough (guided by me, the site directors and other faculty and staff of the School of Archaeology). My engagement with the residents at Baleskin is facilitated by both the School of Archaeology UCD and JRS (Jesuit Refugee Service) Ireland.

From September 2017 until December 2019, I delivered my talks in the Baleskin 'Seomra Fáilte' Resource Hub, but when Covid interrupted my in-person instruction, I provided a series of pre-recorded 10-minute talks for the centre. Pre-covid, I provided a repeating programme of four 1.5 hour talks (to correspond with the fluctuation of residents at the centre) with detailed PowerPoint presentation: the first is an introduction to Ireland, with a foray into the Irish language and traditions. My second lecture introduces a series of historic demographic influxes to Ireland: the Vikings (humorously presented as a successful integration case study against all odds), the Anglo-Normans and more recent visitors to Ireland. My third lecture is on 20th- and 21st-century Irish

history and politics from the Easter Rising to Brexit. My fourth talk takes the form of a poetry circle in which I introduce participants to the works of Heaney, Kavanagh, Yeats and Hartnett – but I would also like to introduce Irish language poets like Máirtín Ó Direáin in the future.

In September 2021 (24.09.21), I was delighted to resume my in-person engagement with a tour of the National Museum, leading different pods around the exhibits – participants included representatives from South Africa and Afghanistan of all ages. While I am able to visit the Direct Provision Centre at Baleskin now, we are still not allowed to gather indoors so I have organised an outdoor poetry corner on the grounds. For the past two weeks (01-08.10.21), our poetry group ranged in age from 1 to 75 and with members from Zimbabwe, Nigeria and Afghanistan. We looked at the poetry of Seamus Heaney and Yeats with participants reciting poems and discussing content. For homework, attendees were asked to attend the Heaney Exhibit in the Bank of Ireland over the coming months. This week, we will be having our first Irish language class (which will be as basic as my Irish skills) and the following week I will be back leading pods around the National Museum.

This venture was originally the brainchild of Joe Carthy (UCD), Gabriel Cooney (UCD), Eugene Quinn (JRS Ireland) and David Moriarty (JRS Ireland), but has since grown into a much larger community, including Maureen Doyle (Archaeology, UCD) who delivers talks in semester II, JRS Ireland liaison officers Aine Lambe and Lucy Ray, Joanna Bruck (Archaeology, UCD), Graeme Warren (Archaeology, UCD), Conor McDermott (Archaeology, UCD), Brendan O'Neill (Archaeology & CEAMC, UCD), Aidan O'Sullivan (Archaeology & CEAMC, UCD) and Matt Seaver (National Museum of Ireland), all of whom contribute in various ways.

Submitted by Amanda Kelly



# UCD School of English, Drama and Film

## Researching Representations of Child Sexual Abuse in Contemporary Culture



**This project explores how the issue of child sexual abuse is represented in contemporary culture in works like novels, films, and TV series, and seeks to understand how these representations affect both survivors and general audiences.**

This interdisciplinary Wellcome Trust-funded project led by Dr. Ailise Bulfin explores how child sexual abuse (CSA) is represented in contemporary culture in works like novels, films,

and TV series, and seeks to understand how these representations affect both survivors and general audiences. This work is important because cultural representations potentially inform social understandings of CSA, which in turn affect survivors' health outcomes and CSA prevention.

Strand one of the project included an interdisciplinary, community-academic symposium in May 2021 which brought together academics across disciplines with community stakeholders including CSA survivors. The aim was to build a research network and agenda for investigating this topic and ensure that community perspectives are key to informing the ensuing research. The symposium was organised by Dr. Ailise Bulfin and Shaakya Anand-Vembar, funded by the Wellcome Trust, and hosted by the School of English, Drama and Film.

The symposium brought together CSA survivors, healthcare practitioners, and support professionals and academics across the disciplines of cultural studies, social science, and medicine to discuss their experience of and work in the area of CSA from a cultural perspective. The purpose was to explore the role of cultural representations of CSA in contemporary society and to consider how these representations may affect both survivors and general audiences. For example, as CSA survivor and activist Hazel Larkin noted in the opening talk, sensitive representations can provide solace and a sense of shared experience for survivors, but ill-conceived representations can contribute to spreading harmful myths about CSA.

Overall, the symposium featured talks by CSA survivors giving their views on cultural representations of CSA; talks by scholars of history, sociology, social work, criminology, and psychology on their research in the area of CSA;

*Sensitive representations can provide solace and a sense of shared experience for survivors.*

*The aim was to build a research network and agenda for investigating this topic and ensure that community perspectives are key to informing the ensuing research.*

*The symposium has led to the creation of a research network of national and international collaborators for the project, including academics across several fields; CSA survivors, healthcare and support professionals, as well as creative practitioners including authors and artists.*

talks by scholars of literature, film, narrative medicine and creative media effects on how cultural representations affect audiences; and talks by social work and healthcare professionals on their work with survivors and how cultural representations of CSA affect this. Recordings of the talks are available on the project website: <https://csainculture.com/2021-symposium/>

The symposium has led to the creation of a research network of national and international collaborators for the project, including academics across several fields; CSA survivors, healthcare and support professionals, as well as creative practitioners including authors and artists. It has also produced a research agenda outlining optimal approaches for researching CSA representations and ensured community stakeholders' input into framing the project's research questions and intended academic and therapeutic outputs.

Submitted by Ailise Bulfin



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



# UCD School of Geography

## Mapping Green Dublin



**Mapping Green Dublin is a collaborative action research project led by UCD's School of Geography in collaboration with arts organisation Common Ground, artist Seoidín O'Sullivan and event facilitators Connect the Dots.**

Mapping Green Dublin (MGD) began as a broader call for research under the theme "Greening Dublin's Inner City" funded by the Irish

Environmental Protection Agency. The call focused on identifying ways to foster increased community engagement with "green infrastructure" (GI) in the urban environment. It took place in an inner-city neighbourhood of Dublin 8 between 2019 and 2020. The first phase of the project involved scientifically mapping the span and territories of trees and greenspace across Dublin 8, identifying their location and quality, greenspace deficits, and future needs.

*To engage with and develop a new governance arrangement for more inclusive and appropriate urban greening strategies.*

Phase two included a series of curated events from March to August 2020. This included focus groups with a small number of community leaders and then a community launch event - an all-day open mapping workshop held in a local educational facility - attended by 80 participants. The scientific data generated in phase 1 was presented in a way that opened up a creative and supportive space for dialogue on the wider role of trees and greening in enhancing urban resilience.

Large maps detailing roads, landmarks, and all the trees in the area were made available and participants were invited to use stickers to indicate areas of strength (green), potential (yellow), and areas of deficit (red) for up to nine dimensions of greening (trees, greenspace, biodiversity, play, sport, seating, walking, cycling, cars/pollution). A total of 155 comments were received and mapped. Maps developed during the participatory mapping event were also made available on the website and social media and used to elicit further responses from the community using an online survey (N = 170).



Given the emphasis in MGD on community empowerment and leadership, an important action identified during the focus groups was the establishment of a neighbourhood greening forum. At our community launch event, 35 participants initially expressed interest and 13 became actively engaged. Members of the forum developed greening ideas anew or further developed and refined pre-existing ideas. The final phase of the project identified specific areas for focused greening interventions and used design thinking methods to develop an urban prototyping workshop to support the forum. Projects and community recommendations were presented to key landholders and policymakers to help identify pathways to greening for the area. This culminated in the production of a formal community greening strategy by and for the community.

An important output from this action research project is a co-creation process to enable communities, local authorities, and policymakers to engage with and develop a new governance arrangement for more inclusive and appropriate urban greening strategies. This includes the production of a toolkit that other communities can use to enhance their local areas.

Submitted by Niamh Moore-Cherry





# School of Geography & School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy

## Community SDG Dashboard - Measuring Sustainable Actions at Community Level



**This project fosters social engagement for monitoring local progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals and aims to capture such progress in an interactive online dashboard.**

Funded by the Earth Institute, this project is an academic-community partnership between the Dundrum 2030 community group and UCD researchers. Through close community engagement and input, the project has identified eight Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are of priority for the Dundrum area and co-defined an UN-aligned indicator set that links to current local initiatives.

Community members have helped create an online inventory of sustainable initiatives and actions, and UCD researchers have supported capacity building in the community for data gathering and interpretation. The project has resulted in the co-creation of an indicator-led monitoring toolkit and associated dashboard for data gathering, analysis, and visualisation (see: <https://ucdireland.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/8de77fd7713e4a1f80645df277b4a46a>).



*Community members have helped create an online inventory of sustainable initiatives and actions.*

The approach implemented in this project not only fosters community-led implementation and tracking of local action towards the achievement of the SDGs, but the dashboard and the monitoring outputs are designed so that they can feed into national sustainability reporting as currently undertaken by the Government of Ireland (see: <https://irelandsdg.geohive.ie>). It provides a novel community SDG measuring framework transferable to other communities.

Submitted by Ainhua Gonzalez

*A novel community SDG measuring framework transferable to other communities.*





# UCD School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics

## Living Multilingually: Enhancing Language Learning in Secondary Schools



**Living Multilingually' is a pre/co-curricular initiative from the UCD School of Languages, Cultures, and Linguistics that supports language learning in secondary schools and empowers language students to recognise and assert the versatility of their skillset.**

The School of Languages, Cultures, and Linguistics has created a suite of activities and online resources responding to challenges facing students and teachers of languages and linguistics. The consultation process carried out in advance of the publication of the government's Languages Connect strategy (2017) identified eight challenges to living multilingually in Ireland - three of these are especially relevant to our students:

- The global dominance of English.
- The lack of awareness of the opportunities that foreign languages offer for careers and mobility.
- The perceived difficulty of learning languages.

These assumptions and negative perceptions around language learning undermine the confidence of language students, heritage speakers of other languages, and students from homes conventionally perceived as monolingual. 'Living Multilingually' offers new ways for students to proactively plan their multilingual journey, make connections between skills and knowledge gained in the classroom and their potential for impact in the world beyond. The project also advances the goal of Languages Connect to 'actively encourage and support citizens to communicate in multiple languages and appreciate other cultures, enabling people who live here to become global citizens.

The project aims to empower students to recognise and assert the value of their experiences as language users and learners. Key to the philosophy of 'Living Multilingually' is the understanding that we are all multilingual as we all use language in ways that are unique to us and that change across social and cultural contexts.

The digital resources, available on the School's Media Portal (<https://slclmediaportal.com/slcl-outreach/ucdictionary/>), work to:

- Create a space where every student feels valued for their unique knowledge, skills, and identities
- Provide supports for students in developing learner autonomy in language learning and cultural development
- Introduce a range of authentic cultural texts with which students can engage on linguistic as well as personal and emotional levels
- Challenge perceptions of what it means to 'do' modern languages
- Introduce current SLCL students as role models demonstrating how we can live multilingually

For Second Level Students, the Living Multilingually Student Portfolio ([https://www.canva.com/design/DAEhXSN\\_e4o/wOoA7pBSGftIE\\_oXVVL9fA/view?utm\\_content=DAEhXSN\\_e4o&utm\\_campaign=designshare&utm\\_medium=link&utm\\_source=sharebutton](https://www.canva.com/design/DAEhXSN_e4o/wOoA7pBSGftIE_oXVVL9fA/view?utm_content=DAEhXSN_e4o&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=sharebutton)) provides a scaffold to support engagement with the online tools. On completion of the portfolio students will:

- Have a nuanced understanding of what it means to learn languages and live multilingually.
- Be motivated to learn new languages
- Have begun developing a toolkit of soft skills with which to approach new languages.
- Be able to navigate critical incidents independently
- Value linguistic and cultural competencies in themselves and others

Transition Year students at Dominican College and Collinstown Park Community College have already begun to work with the portfolio. In addition, SLCL students are also supporting revision and practice activities in advance of Leaving Certificate French oral and written exams with the Clondalkin Access Network.

If you are interested in participating in the Living Multilingually Portfolio Challenge or in arranging oral and /or written exam support activities with your students, contact [slcl@ucd.ie](mailto:slcl@ucd.ie)

Submitted by Mary Farrelly



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



# UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics

## Junior Mathematics Enrichment

**We provide a programme of Mathematics classes offering fun and (pre-covid) social way for younger secondary school students to develop their mathematical thinking and problem-solving skills.**

The UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics, in conjunction with the Irish Mathematical Trust, runs a Junior Mathematics Enrichment Programme for students in the first four years of secondary school. There is a separate Senior Enrichment Programme. Our classes are free of charge, run by talented tutors, and are designed to develop a sound understanding of mathematics and to improve problem-solving skills. We hope that students will develop friendships through mathematics.

In 2020/21 we adapted to the pandemic and offered a full and successful online programme, a testament to the dedication of our tutors, with two sets of eleven classes in the shorter Autumn (Sept-Dec) session and two sets of 18 classes in the Spring (Jan-May) session. This corresponds to a total of 58 hours of online instruction in the arts of mathematics. The engagement has been excellent, peaking at more than 100 students attending each week, with drop-off only increasing around holidays.

Our typical lesson format is to guide the students

*“My child has always loved Maths but this program has made maths even more fun for him. He always looks forward to Saturdays.”*

through a worksheet that we distribute so they can work at their own pace as well as go through one question at a time via a shared screen. This accommodates multiple levels of ability, with students asking questions via text chat and voice. Our lessons have a playful atmosphere, where we explore the questions without the social stakes of a normal classroom environment.

*“Just like the word, it’s very enriching and fun.”*

The programme is made possible by financial support from Accenture Global Solutions. We are looking for more patrons to enable us to expand and reach more students.

Submitted by Neil Dobbs

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



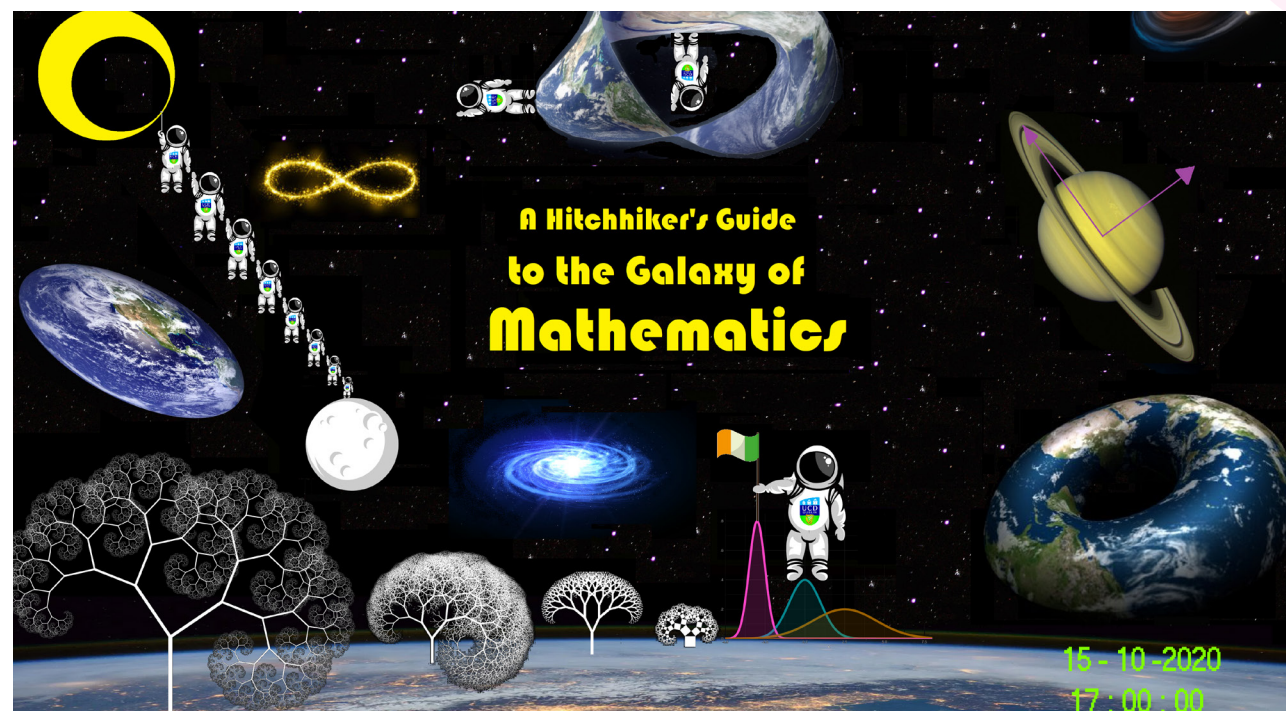
*“Just wanted to say thanks for the past year, my daughter has enjoyed the classes.”*





# UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics

## Outreach activities in Mathematics



### Virtual event 'A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy of Mathematics' for Maths Week 2020.

As part of the Maths Week 2020, the UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics hosted the virtual event "A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy of Mathematics", which took place on October 15, 2020, via zoom.

The main goal was to capture an audience of teenagers/young adults to showcase all the different routes Mathematics can take you.

The event, which attracted 80 attendees, consisted of the following presentations from academic members from our School:

1. "No Vacancy: How Big is Infinity?",
2. "When to change your holiday money",
3. "Right triangles and a one-million-dollar question",
4. "Modelling the world with Maths",
5. "Glitches in the matrix",
6. "Quaternions: 3D rotation in 4D space",
7. "Network Analysis with Deer",
8. "Homeomorphism",
9. "Light rays, black holes & interstellar".

*The main goal was to capture an audience of teenagers/young adults to showcase all the different routes Mathematics can take you.*

### Virtual event to celebrate the International Day of Women in Mathematics.

The UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics organised a half-day virtual event, targeted at the general public, to celebrate the International Day of Women in Mathematics (May 12, 2021).

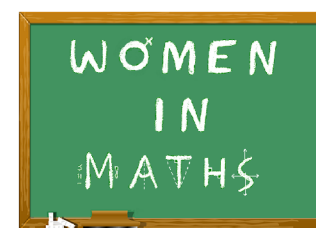
The event brought together young and established female researchers in Mathematics who talked about their research work and shared their own experience as women in Mathematics. In particular, the event consisted of three plenary talks (by Evita Nestoridi (Princeton University, US), Annamaria Iezzi (Université de la Polynésie Française, French Polynesia) and Angela Tabiri (African Institute for Mathematical Sciences, Ghana)) and some engaging activities: an online quiz on the history of women in Mathematics and a panel discussion about women in academia and career opportunities in

Mathematics, which was chaired by Prof. Gwyneth Stallard (Open University, UK).

Our goal was to represent the whole academic spectrum with outstanding female mathematicians who could inspire with their work and experience other female mathematicians around the world. This virtual meeting, which was supported by the 'UCD Seed Funding Programme for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion', was open and free to everyone and attracted more than 50 attendees from 14 different countries.

Submitted by Myrto Manolaki

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



The UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics invites you to celebrate the International Day of Women in Mathematics (12/05/2021) with a unique virtual event. The goal of this event is to bring together prominent female mathematicians from each stage of the academic spectrum to present their research work and share their experiences.

#### Invited Speakers & Panelists

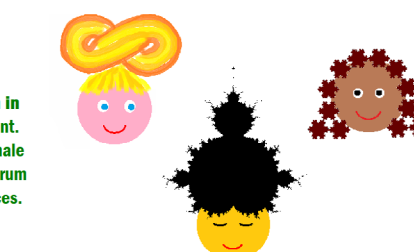
Vasiliki Evdoridou (Open University, UK)  
Mayya Golitsyna (University College Dublin, Ireland)  
Annamaria Iezzi (Université de la Polynésie Française, French Polynesia)  
Maria Kourou (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece)  
Evita Nestoridi (Princeton University, US)  
Katie Severn (University of Nottingham, UK)  
Gwyneth Stallard (Open University, UK)  
Angela Tabiri (African Institute for Mathematical Sciences, Ghana)

#### Quiz

Brigitte Stenhouse (Open University, UK)  
Enduræ.com [technical support]

#### Organisers

UCD School of Mathematics & Statistics, under the support of the UCD Seed Funding Programme for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion



### Wednesday, 12 May 2021 Schedule in Irish Time Zone (GMT+1)

|             |                          |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| 2.00 - 2.30 | Talk 1 (Evita Nestoridi) |
| 2.30 - 3.00 | Talk 2 (Annamaria Iezzi) |
| 3.00 - 3.30 | Talk 3 (Angela Tabiri)   |
| 3.30 - 3.45 | Virtual Coffee Break ☕   |
| 3.45 - 4.15 | Panel Discussion 💬       |
| 4.15 - 4.45 | Quiz and Closing 🧐       |



# UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice

## Community-engaged Research

As a group of researchers and practitioners, we were involved in a study to assess the level of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) for women accessing a domestic violence service. During the Covid19 lockdown restrictions in late 2020 designed a collaborative project to write narratives of our experiences of working with women's trauma and trauma histories.

This project emerged from a community-engaged research study that aimed to:

- a) identify the level of ACEs for women accessing a domestic violence service and,
- b) consider and explore trauma-informed responses to women's childhood experiences and the intergenerational transmission of trauma.

The study found that ACEs experienced by women who were subject to domestic violence were commonly reported. Of the 60 women who completed the ACEs routine enquiry in the study, over one-half (58 per cent) reported experiencing at least two ACEs in their childhood; one-third of all respondents reported experiencing four or more (Morton & Curran, 2019). The study concluded that this form of ACEs routine enquiry, while not an end in itself, was a useful tool to engage women in conversations about trauma and intergenerational patterns and a basis for developing trauma-informed interventions. In the aftermath of this study, and as we decided to come together to write about the experiences of engaging in practice and organisational change.

Over six weeks eight of us (six practitioners and two researchers) met weekly via an online meeting platform to discuss and review all of the emerging narratives. The focus of the narratives – concerns, practice interactions, and client responses to explorations of childhood trauma – were agreed collaboratively. One practitioner, an art therapist, decided to also complete a visual piece that represented her experience of incorporating understandings of ACEs into her art therapy practice within the organisation.

*The study found that ACEs experienced by women who were subject to domestic violence were commonly reported.*



Original artwork 'The Masks that People Wear' by Lisa Dundon produced as part of the project

*The study concluded that this form of ACEs routine enquiry....was a useful tool to engage women in conversations about trauma and intergenerational patterns and a basis for developing trauma-informed interventions.*

This collective writing process was important to all those involved. It embodied and reflected the collaborative and empathic way the organisation seeks to undertake client work, while also valuing the lived experience of the practitioners and providing them with opportunities to generate knowledge and develop and embed research skills. We came together during a time of tight restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, when we were not able to meet each other in person and our lives and interactions were heavily prescribed by public

health guidelines. The writing process helped develop further understanding and learning among the authors, and led to a deepening of respect for each other's skills. Although the process was challenging, it solidified practice and commitment to innovative practices. The multi-author final manuscript was submitted to a relevant journal and following peer review, is currently in press with Reflections: Narratives of Professional Helping.

**Project collaborators:** Sarah Morton, Mary Barry O'Gorman, Megan Curran, Breeda Bell, Lisa Dundon, Martina Killoran, Geraldine Mullane and Erika Ward

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS







# UCD Sport

## UCD Sport In The Community

**As a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, many of our sports clubs were unfortunately unable to return to training and competitions during the 2020-21 academic year. However, the pandemic would not affect their commitment to engage with their members and with the community.**

Movember has been a charity of choice amongst some of our sports clubs. Sports club members from UCD Fencing club, UCD Mountaineering club, UCD Mens Boat club, UCD Sub Aqua club, UCD Canoe club, UCD Badminton club and UCD Trampoline club all ran online campaigns that challenged their members to either grow moustaches and/or travel hundreds of kilometres to raise vital funds for this worthwhile cause.

Charities that provide information, raise awareness, provide support and raise funds for cancer research have traditionally been supported by our sports clubs and this year was no exception. Both UCD Ultimate Frisbee club and UCD Windsurfing club participated in the Irish Cancer Society's virtual Relay For Life event. Breast Cancer Ireland received a donation of over €1,300 from UCD Ladies Hockey club, this funding was raised during their annual "Pink Day" in October. Under the expert guidance of John Hammond, who had retired from his role as club administrator, UCD Men's and Women's Rugby clubs, alongside 2nd year UCD students from the BSc in Sport and Exercise Management degree, once again ran a fantastic Daffodil Day campaign. The challenge this year was to transition from an on-campus event to a virtual event and using their social media channels they raised over €9,000. John Hammond was given special recognition for his contribution over the last number of years by the Irish Cancer society who presented him with the first ever Irish

Cancer Society Daffodil Day Community Champion Award.

UCD Ladies Hockey club took part in the Darkness into Light event in aid of Pieta House by walking or running 5km at sunrise. Further funds for Pieta House were also raised by UCD Trampoline club. UCD Ultimate Frisbee club also fundraised for Show Racism The Red Card. Whilst UCD Trampoline club raised funds for the Black Lives Matter Campaign and the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre. Furthermore, UCD Windsurfing club participated in the UCD100 and the North Pole Dash.



In addition to their involvement in the Movember campaign UCD Fencing club also raised funds for the Irish Heart Foundation as well as participating in an intervarsity challenge in aid of Jigsaw. UCD Mountaineering club made a generous donation, on behalf of a guest speaker, to the Dublin-Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team. UCD Men's Basketball club successfully ran an online fundraiser and surpassed their target, raising over €1,800 to support the efforts of the various charities that provide over 3,000 meals on Christmas day.

Submitted by Paula Cashman



# UCD St Vincent de Paul

## Street Outreach and Letter Writing Campaign



**Our Street Outreach Programme is an initiative that allows our student volunteers to assist the homeless community within Dublin City Centre. Volunteers go out in groups of six with boxes of supplies that provide food, toiletries and necessities to those in need.**

Our Street Outreach programme was set up over nine years ago by students involved in UCDSVP and has since become one of our most popular activities yet. The academic year of 20/21 showed

**1** NO POVERTY



us that despite the numerous challenges we were faced with, our volunteers were ready and willing to help. We successfully ran two full Street Outreach nights each week throughout the year and provided food, clothes, toiletries, sleeping bags and support to the Dublin City homeless community.

Further restrictions we're especially hard on the homeless community within Dublin. We sadly saw an increase in demand for our services and from interacting with the people who use our services we found the number one issue was loneliness. Along with providing food and clothes our volunteers were there to provide support and have a kind and meaningful chat with the people using our services.

This upcoming year we are continuing this programme and actively recruiting and training new volunteers so that we can successfully run multiple full Street Outreach programmes each week and continue to support and assist the homeless community within Dublin City.

**Our volunteers sent handwritten letters to some of the residents at a local nursing home during the height of restrictions, when many residents were feeling isolated and lonely.**

We organised this campaign during the height of restrictions. We understood that many residents of nursing homes were feeling isolated and missing their families, so we decided to organise a group of volunteers to send letters to the residents of a local nursing home, just something to bring a bit of joy to people's day.

We had our volunteers send bits about their lives, some funny stories and uplifting stories, just anything to brighten up the resident's day.

We had wonderful feedback from the activity coordinator in the nursing home and from our volunteers as well.

**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

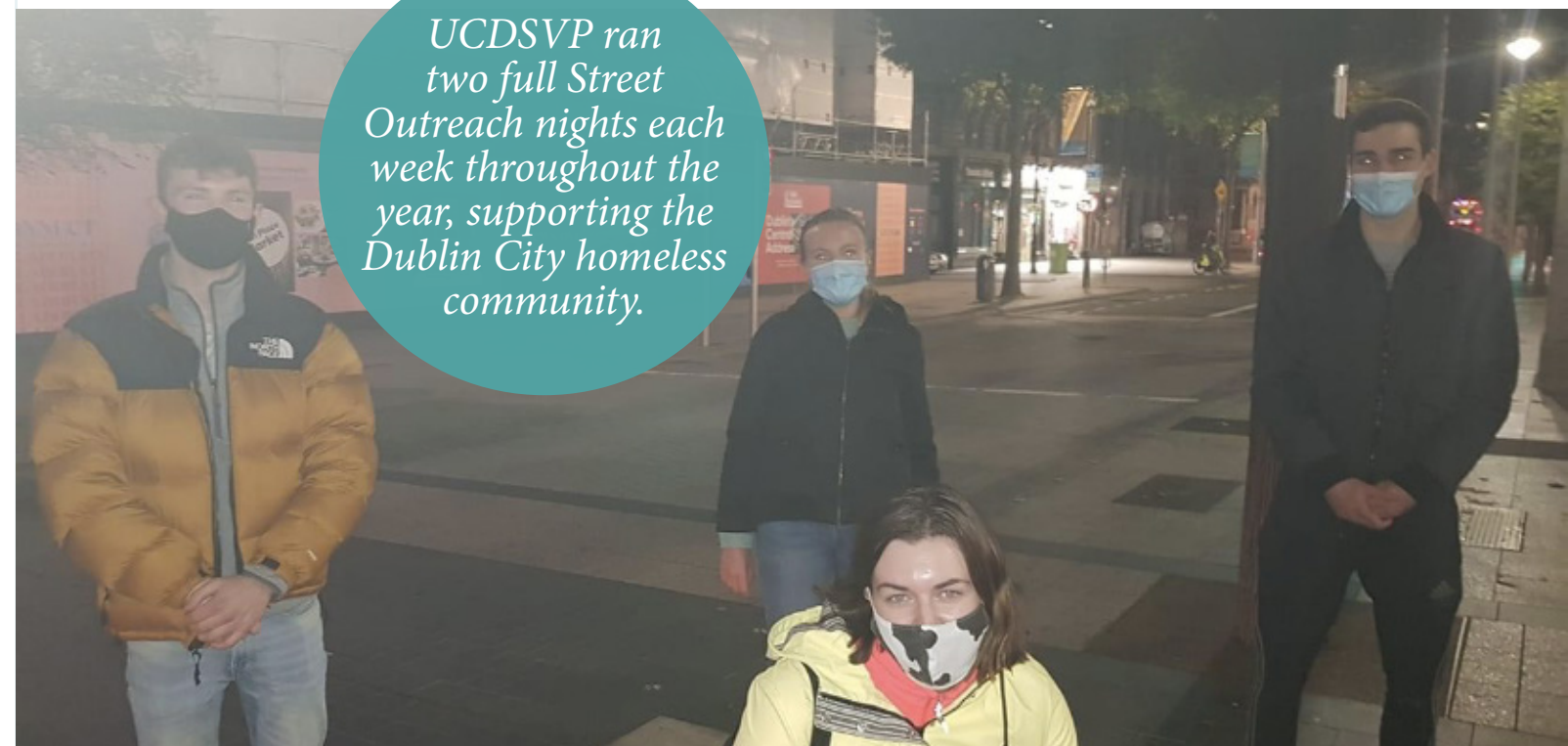


This upcoming year we plan to run the same campaign again around Christmas time to help spread some joy and cheer to those who have been isolated these past few years.

Submitted by Abigail O'Connell, Vice-Auditor, UCDSVP

*The academic year of 20/21 showed us that despite the numerous challenges we were faced with, our volunteers were ready and willing to help.*

*UCDSVP ran two full Street Outreach nights each week throughout the year, supporting the Dublin City homeless community.*





# UCD Student Centre

## Remaining Resilient to Serve the Community



UCD Hockey Club provided expert coaching to over 150 primary and secondary school children in the local community throughout 2020/2021

**Notwithstanding the adversity facing University service delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic, UCD Student Services remained resilient, agile, accessible and fully engaged with our community throughout.**

The Student Centre and associated Sport and Fitness facilities promptly reopened after lockdown #1 to deliver in-person essential services in line with government guidelines. COVID-19 specific medical training for Dublin-East medical professionals was facilitated by the Student Centre in conjunction with the UCD Centre for Emergency Medical Science. The Student Centre pharmacy too played a pivotal frontline role in providing community members with the necessary products and goods to keep healthy and safe. Our community's spiritual well-being was supported by the Chaplaincy unit in the form of live-streaming mass for community mass followers. A bereavement counselling programme was too initiated for those who suffered grief and loss within their family. The programme was a great source of comfort to our community when the emotional impact of grieving was enhanced due to the isolation and loneliness of covid restrictions.

While the COVID-19 pandemic meant many of our student activity groups were unable to return to training, practice, competitions and events during the 2020-21 academic year, the pandemic did not affect their commitment to engage with the community. UCD Sports Club members continued to once again fundraise and volunteer their time to play a positive role within the community. In excess of €37,000 was generated in total for numerous charities in the community through optimistic student endeavour. Breast Cancer Ireland received a donation of over €1,300 from the Ladies Hockey club, this funding was raised during their annual "Pink Day" in October. The Men's and Women's Rugby clubs once again ran a fantastic Daffodil Day campaign, albeit online. The campaign raised over €9,000 for the Irish Cancer Society. The Men's Basketball club successfully raised over €1,800 to support the efforts of the various charities that provide in excess of 3,000 meals on Christmas day to those most in need. The UCD GAA Club raised €1,918 for Temple Street Children's Hospital Foundation by conducting a virtual 5KM run amongst their student members.

*UCD Student Services remained resilient, agile, accessible and fully engaged with our community throughout.*

In addition, UCD Student Services pooled their resources together from within all sub-units and formed a partnership with Healthy UCD and UCDSVP. This partnership empowered approximately 1,206 students to complete the UCD100 Challenge. The challenge presented students who were remotely learning from 26 counties nationally and 12 countries internationally with an opportunity to improve their physical fitness whilst continuing to maintain contact with their peers virtually within the UCD Community. The work outputted by Student Services endeavours created the synergy required for students to raise an impressive €23,115 for St. Vincent De Paul (UCD Society branch) over the 30 days.

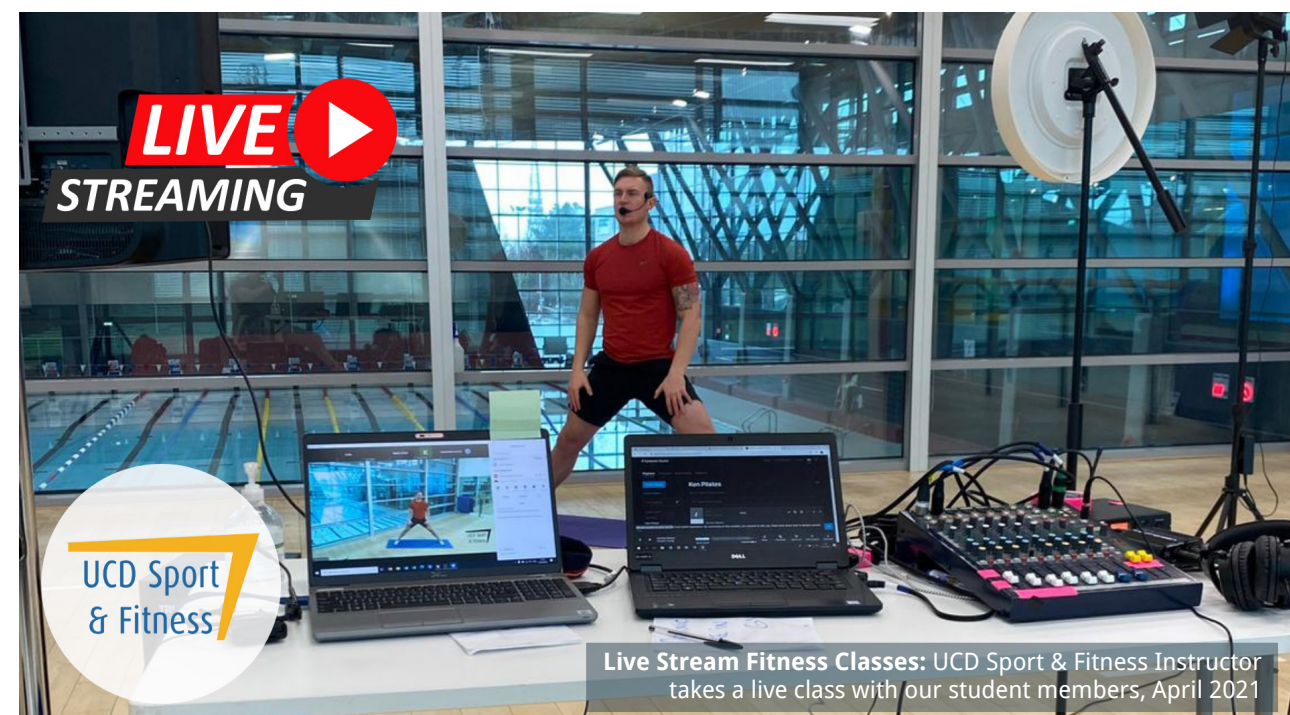
*The UCD100 Challenge raised an impressive €23,115 for St. Vincent De Paul*

Left to right: Jason Masterson, Head of UCD Student Services, Ceolan Mc Mullin, Auditor, UCDSVP, Brian Mullins, Healthy UCD, Maria Heffernan, Healthy UCD, Dominic O'Keeffe, Director of UCD Student Services.





UCD Sport & Fitness moved online and implemented an extremely successful series of Live Zoom Fitness Classes enabling community members to take exercise and explore fitness and mental health resources on-demand from the comfort and safety of their homes. UCD Sport & Fitness whilst closed under government guidelines continued to upskill staff specific to teaching those individuals with additional needs, in association with Swim Ireland. This enabled staff to provide for all of the community upon re-opening. When back fully operational, local and regional clubs immediately sought to engage with the pool facilities.



Live Stream Fitness Classes: UCD Sport & Fitness Instructor takes a live class with our student members, April 2021

Those included, Belpark Triathlon Club, Trojan Swimming Club, Piranha Triathlon club, T3 Triathlon Club, Dublin Swimming Club, Swan Leisure Swimming Club, Glenalbyn Swimming Club, Half Moon water Polo, Templeogue Swimming Club, Pentathlon Ireland, Titans swimming club, St.Fiaccs swimming club, Longford Swimming Club, Courtown Swimming Club, Atlantic Coast lifeguards and Irish Water Safety Association.

UCD Sports Facilities in partnership with the UCD GAA Club, UCD Hockey Club and UCD Soccer Club provided access and expert coaching to hundreds of families in the community over the past 12 months. In alignment with government guidelines, UCD Soccer rolled out their popular Soccer Summer

Camps with over 1,500 local children participating throughout the 10 week period. In addition, the UCD Soccer SuperLeague competition enrolled in excess of 500 local adult players, providing a platform and outlet for our community members to compete in a socially convivial environment.

UCD GAA continued to maintain strong links with both adults and children in many local clubs by ensuring pitch access was available to clubs and Schools such as Kilmacud Crokes, Ranelagh Gaels, St. Olaf's, Balinteer St. John's, Cuala, St. Jude's, Ballyboden, Coláiste Eoin and St. Benildus.

The UCD Hockey Academy under the stewardship of the UCD Hockey Club provided expert coaching to over 150 primary and secondary school children in the community. The Academy aspires to develop dedicated young athletes who are motivated to grow their hockey game. The coaching framework consisted of current Irish International hockey players and top coaches from around the world who offer the most innovative and immersive coaching experience obtainable in Ireland.

Submitted by Mags D'Arcy

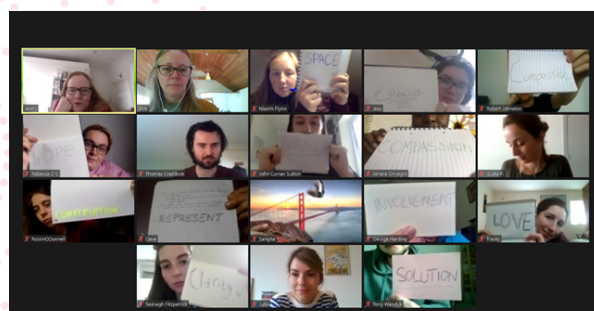
The Academy aspires to develop dedicated young athletes who are motivated to grow their hockey game. The coaching framework consisted of current Irish International hockey players and top coaches from around the world who offer the most innovative and immersive coaching experience obtainable in Ireland.





# UCD Volunteers Overseas (UCDVO)

## Solidarity in Action



**This year UCDVO brought the UCD community together for an exciting new 3-month global citizenship learning journey.**

Over the last few years, UCDVO has offered two evening courses for those looking to broaden and deepen their engagement with global justice issues and action for social change. These courses are open to all UCD students, staff and alumni and a handful of external applicants with relevant experience. These courses are run in partnership with Comhlámh, and are funded by Concern Worldwide.

This year, in partnership with Comhlámh, UCDVO introduced a new three-month learning journey from March until June. The new course, Solidarity in Action, was designed for those who have previously participated in one of UCDVO's other evening courses (Be the Change; Skills in Development Education) or the UCDVO Volunteering and Global Citizenship Programme. Building on these spaces, Solidarity in Action created an avenue to bring UCD students and alumni together. During times of Covid-19 restrictions and off-campus learning, this was a particularly exciting time to reconnect with one another and continue global citizenship journeys together.

*Solidarity in Action helps to build principles of global citizenship into long-term thinking.*

Solidarity in Action seeks to meet people as they transition from student to graduate; helping to build principles of global citizenship into long-term thinking. It offers opportunity for progression, meeting people 'where they are at' in their global citizenship journey.

What sets Solidarity in Action apart, is the spirit of inquiry and self-directed learning. From the very beginning, participants will be invited to work with questions that feel close to them, and to carve out an action experiment to delve even deeper.

Action experiments from 2021 include:

- Addressing attitude and treatment of trans, non-binary, and gender non-conforming people.
- Why climate action is seen as more of an intergenerational issue in Sweden, whereas in Ireland this is not reflected.
- Campaign to de-stigmatise mental health amongst young people in the local area.
- Equality and diversity in the healthcare system.

Along with Comhlámh, UCDVO are planning to produce an online interactive publication based on the content generated by the 2021 participants, to be released in early 2022. Watch this space!

Submitted by Grace O'Hara



*"I felt Solidarity in Action was an excellent progression on the back of Skills in Dev Ed, which offered more of a foundation. Where in Skills in Dev Ed, I felt I was up-skilling, in Solidarity in Action, I felt I was deep diving, learning skills that I never knew were needed or even ever existed."*







Photographs on pages 6, 10, 12, 20, 42, 43, 54, 60, 80, 102, 107 and 118, credited to Vincent Hoban



# Remembering our UCD Colleagues

In memory of our UCD colleagues who contributed so much to the UCD community



## Dr John Stowe

Dr John Stowe was an assistant professor in the Radiography & Diagnostic Imaging Section of the School of Medicine since 2007 and prior to that he was an occasional lecturer since the 1990s. Dr Stowe passed away suddenly aged 56 on the 27th of July, 2021.

Dr Stowe's areas of expertise were Computed Tomography and Information Technology. He taught on the Radiography Degree programmes and the CT MSc programme as well as the annual CT Academy delivered to staff from clinical centres nationally. He was passionate about teaching and a key member of the Radiography team awarded a DELTA teaching award from the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education in 2019. Dr Stowe worked with colleagues across different units in

UCD, particularly with IT related activities, as he developed a number of the technologies we use today for training undergraduate and postgraduate radiographers in specialised areas of imaging; this included developing our virtual reality suites and our image archiving technology. Dr Stowe was actively involved in enhancing the students' experience and developed several innovative teaching and assessment models, recognised by the National Forum.

Dr Stowe was collaborating across several healthcare disciplines to open our virtual reality training opportunities to a greater audience and he had developed several open-source imaging simulation software packages, currently used by several universities internationally with whom we collaborate to enhance radiography training at a global level. Dr Stowe had a unique knowledge of both medical imaging technology and computer science, and he worked for many years in industry as an engineer and medical imaging specialist in CT and with medical imaging informatics systems. Dr Stowe was recognised as a leading expert in his field by the European Federation of Radiographer Societies – who represent over 100,000 radiographers across Europe. Dr Stowe

*As well as his academic work, John always participated in student charity events within the School of Medicine.*

was a key team member who delivered summer student research offerings as part of OPTIMAX, a consortium of Radiography Centres from several European countries, and he led a summer camp, pre-COVID, where over 30 students visited for 3 weeks of intensive research activity from 8 countries.

As well as his academic work John always participated in student charity events within the School of Medicine, he supported radiography events annually across Ireland and pre-COVID he regularly attended university functions such as orchestral evenings and musicals in O'Reilly Hall. Dr Stowe was a much-loved member of our team and is greatly missed as a colleague, a wonderful friend, and as a fabulous teacher by the students. Staff and students are grateful for the time we had with John and the positive impact he had on all our lives.

May he rest in peace. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.







## Dr Mary Gallagher

Mary Gallagher was a Senior Technical Officer in the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine for nearly twenty years. She loved teaching and research, involved in teaching the undergraduate students and also combining the two to support many research students within the school. Always there to guide them in the right direction. In addition, Mary was also always happy to help fellow staff members, in training in the laboratory, or indeed just for a chat when needed. Mary's presence at meetings always brought a gently humanity to any issues or conflicts.

Mary's love for constantly developing and learning led her to her becoming involved in valuable collaborations across the school. She also successfully completed the Professional Diploma in Teaching and Learning to further develop her skills in teaching.

She was an integral part of the Vet School community, actively involved in helping to establish the post-graduate mentoring scheme, a member of the Sense of Community committee and the chair of the Vet EDI Athena Swan Communication and Community working group.

## *She was an integral part of the Vet School community.*

Mary lent her voice to the annual Vet School Carol service every Christmas. She was also part of the Darkness into Light UCD Vet team helping to raise awareness of the event. More than just an amazing member of the Vet School community, she was also active in the UCD community. A member of the UCD Community Choir from the beginning she could be found singing at many community events. The weekly choir session was one of the highlights of her week.

Mary was a regular at the university "Purl" Jam knitting group and was always available to rescue a dropped stitch, knitting socks, jumpers and cardigans for friends and family.

Mary has left a hole in our community, a warm, caring soul who was a mentor and friend for many. We miss her so very much.



I am delighted to join #WeAreUCDVetsandVetnurses on their journey from Darkness into Light 2021.

My name is Mary Gallagher and I work as a Senior Technical Officer supporting pre-clinical teaching to vet students and meeting some of you during your summer research projects.

I have always thought of Dawn as a magical moment of the day where the day is beginning and full of possibilities. Listening to the birds singing of its arrival and seeing the wonderful colours in the sky always fills me with positive thoughts. Since the beginning of the various lockdowns and restrictions dawn has become for me a way of holding fast to the hope of better times ahead.

I will greet the dawn on the 8th of May apart from the #WeareUCDVetsandVetnurses team but with a strong feeling of being part of a community who support and value each other. I am proud to be a part of the team who teach you and wish you all well in your own personal and professional journeys over the coming weeks and months.

UCD SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE IS PROUDLY TAKING PART  
IN DARKNESS INTO LIGHT 2021





**This report was compiled by:**

## **UCD in the Community**

*UCD's community engagement initiative*

### **Connect with us:**

Email: [ucdic@ucd.ie](mailto:ucdic@ucd.ie)

Website: [ucd.ie/ucdinthecommunity](http://ucd.ie/ucdinthecommunity)

Twitter: [@UCDCommunity](https://twitter.com/UCDCommunity)

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